Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-199
Monday
16 October 1995

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-199 *16 October 1995*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly To Halt Expulsions *[Jericho VOP]* 1
To Delay Expulsions Until Mid-1996 *[AL-MUSAWWAR 13 Oct]* 1
Arab League Chief on Israel, Libya's UN Role *[MENA]* 1
Financial Crisis Hits Arab League Budget *[MENA]* 2

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Hamas Delegation Discuss PA Relations *[Jericho VOP]* 2
Paper Details 'Arafat-Hamas Meetings *[MENA]* 3
PA Accuses Hamas of Blocking Reconciliation *[AFP]* 3
PA Said Ready To Recognize Hamas as 'Legitimate' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Qaddumi Talks With Oppositionists in Damascus *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Oct]* 4
Sources Cited on Damascus Talks *[SHIHAN 14-20 Oct]* 4
Qaddumi, Hawatimah Call For Boycott of Elections *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
Denounce Oslo, Taba Accords *[SANA]* 5
Ghawshah Denies Hamas Will Participate in Elections *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Oct]* 5
PPP To Take Part in Autonomy Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 6
'Abd-al-Rahim on Hamas, Elections, Prisoners *[Jericho VOP]* 6
'Abd-al-Rahim Delivers Speech on Prisoners *[Jericho VOP]* 7
'Arafat Criticizes Israel's Jerusalem Policy *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Arafat, U.S. Consul Discuss Israeli Delays *[Jericho VOP]* 8
'Urayqat Views 'Arafat-Peres Meeting, Elections *[Cairo International]* 8
Islamic Jihad Holds Anti-Israel Rally in Gaza *[AFP]* 9
Closure of Information Center in Hebron Assailed *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Fatah Protests Israeli Break-In at Offices *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Peres Asked To Rethink 24 Dec Bethlehem Pullout *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Participation in Amman Summit Said Doubtful *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Hamas Denies Hiring Lawyers To Defend Abu-Marzuq *[AL-RA'Y 14 Oct]* 11
Donor States Advise $550 Million for Infrastructure *[Jericho VOP]* 11

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Four Candidates Fulfill Conditions for Elections *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Bomb Explodes, Kills 1 in Constantine *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Shooting Near Government Palace Reported *[Paris International]* 13
Press Reports Possible Death of FIS Army Leader *[Brussels Radio]* 13
Security Forces Kill 60 'Terrorists' *[Algiers Radio]* 13
Diplomat Explains Defection to Opposition *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Oct]* 13
IMF, World Bank 'Happy' With Economic Reforms *[Algiers TV]* 15

Egypt

Suits Filed Against Rabin, Sharon on POW's *[AL-'ARABI 9 Oct]* 15

Minister Views Talks in U.S. on Economic Ties *[MENA]* 16
Defense Minister, Delegation Leave for U.S. *[MENA]* 16
Indian Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit *[MENA]* 17
Al-Sharif Comments on Talks With Rao *[MENA]* 17
Talks With Libya on Workers' Issues To Begin *[MENA]* 17
'Commentary' on Summit Views Syrian Wish for Peace *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Call for Foreign Supervision of Elections Dismissed *[MENA]* 18
Decree Sets Date for Parliamentary Elections *[Cairo Radio]* 18
Spokesman Linked to 'Abd-al-Rahman Conviction *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 12 Oct]* ... 19
'Battalion of Death' Issues Mubarak Death Threat *[AFP]* 20
'Vanguards of Conquest' Urges 'Overthrow' of Regime *[AL-ANWAR 6 Oct]* 20
President Refers Security Cases to Military Courts *[MENA]* 20
Further on 'Terrorists' *[MENA]* 21
'Circus' Atmosphere at Trial *[AFP]* 22

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Vote for Saddam *[Tripoli TV]* 22
Editorial Assails U.S., Sanctions Law *[JANA]* 23
Editor Attacks Reports on Palestinians' Departure *[JANA]* 23

Morocco

King Hassan II Opens New Parliamentary Term *[Rabat TV]* 24
Ambassador Addresses UN on 'Saharan Issue' *[MAP]* 25

Sudan

Foreign Minister Admits Buying Iranian Weapons *[AFP]* 26
Minister on Relations With Egypt, Issues *[SUNA]* 26
University Group Urges 'Uprising' Against Regime *[Cairo Radio]* 26
Al-Ummah Party To Continue Antiregime Struggle *[Cairo Radio]* 27

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz: Moroccan King's Visit 'Provocative' *[Algiers Radio]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Yemen

Salih Addresses Various Issues at News Conference *[Sanaa Radio]* 28
Denies Sheltering 'Extremist' Forces *[MENA]* 29
Denies Government Reshuffle *[Sanaa Radio]* 29
Compares GPC, YRG *[Sanaa Radio]* 30
On 'Misunderstood' Kuwait Statement *[KUNA]* 30

IRAQ

Saddam Wins Referendum on Post of President 32
INA Reports Start of Voting 32
Saddam's Wife, Daughter Cast Votes *[INA]* 32
Vice President Votes at Amman Embassy *[INA]* 32
Barzan al-Tikriti Pledges Loyalty *[Baghdad TV]* 32
'Aziz Receives Guest Delegations *[INA]* 33
Foreign News Teams Arrive *[INA]* 33

Reporters Reportedly Unrestricted *[INA]* 35
Telephone, Telex, Fax Lines Extended *[INA]* 35
Results To Be Announced 'As They Appear' *[INA]* 35
Ministry Official on Announcing Results *[INA]* 35
RCC's Ibrahim Chairs Results Meeting *[Baghdad TV]* 36
Ibrahim Announces Saddam's Victory *[Baghdad TV]* 36
Public Holiday To Commemorate Referendum *[Baghdad TV]* 38
Preparations for Referendum Detailed *[INA]* 38
New Medal for Republic President Instituted *[INA]* 39
Law No. 13 Organizing Public Referendum Amended *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 26 Sep]* 39
Opposition Reacts to Presidential Referendum 40
Parties Urge Boycott of Elections *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 40
Anti-Referendum Leaflets Distributed *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 41
PUK's Talabani Terms Referendum 'Farce' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 41
SAIRI: Referendum 'Media Exercise' *[Kuwait TV]* 41
SAIRI Chairman: Referendum 'Illegal' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 42
Kurdish Writer Welcomes Referendum *[INA]* 42
Papers View Significance of Referendum *[INA]* 43
Extending Saddam's Term Urged as Anti-U.S. Move *[AFP]* 43
Elections Viewed as 'Cruel Parody of Democracy' *[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 13 Oct]* 44
High-Ranking Iraqi Officers Defect to Kurdistan *[IRNA]* 45
Defecting Protocol Official Holds News Conference *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION]* 45
London Press Office Denies Defection *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Oct]* 46
Husayn Kamil Said 'Contemplating' Move to U.S. *[AL-NAHAR 11 Oct]* 46

ISRAEL

IDF Confirms 6 Killed in Lebanon Explosion *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Shahaq Holds News Conference on Lebanon Events *[Jerusalem Radio]* 47
Special Cabinet Meeting on Events in North Called *[Jerusalem Radio]* 48
Peres Warns Against Military Escalation in Lebanon *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 48
Rabin Said Not Seeking 'Large-Scale' Action *[Jerusalem TV]* 48
Sarid, Netanyahu Differ on Need for Action *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 49
Opposition Demands Action in Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 49
Rabinovich Comments on Syrian Role in Lebanon *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 49
Territories Closure To Be Lifted 17 Oct *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 50
Palestinian Offices Closed in Janin Area *[Jerusalem Radio]* 50
Security Sources Doubt PA-Hamas Rapprochement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
Press Reports, Comments on al-Asad's Interview *[AL-AHRAM 12 Oct, etc]* 51
Petition on Embassy Move Sent to Senators, Clinton *[Jerusalem Radio]* 51
New Missiles Seen Making Arrow Obsolete *[HA'ARETZ 15 Oct]* 52

JORDAN

Senator Views Dole's U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Bill *[Amman Radio]* 54
Source Denies $82 Million in U.S. Aid Not Used *[AL-DUSTUR 14 Oct]* 54
Nonresident Iraqis Ordered To Leave *[AL-JAZIRAH 12 Oct]* 54
Minister on Economic Ties With Israel, PA, Iraq *[AL-RA'Y 14 Oct]* 55

LEBANON

Fighting Continues Between Israelis, 'Resistance' 56
Israeli Convoy Ambushed *[VOL]* 56
Israelis Bombard Southern Areas *[Beirut Radio]* 56
More on Bombardment, Overflights *[Beirut Radio]* 56

Attack Sends 'Clear Message' *[IRNA]* 56
'Resistance' Claims 9 Israeli Casualties *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 56
'Resistance' Claims Attack *[Beirut Radio]* 57
More on Ambush Casualties *[VOL]* 57
Leader on 'Resistance' Operation *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Extension of President's Term Viewed 57
Ministers Favor Extension *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Patriarch Criticizes Extension *[Beirut Radio]* 57
Franjiyah's Bloc for Extension *[VOL]* 57

SYRIA

Government Delegates Attack Israel at Conference *[Jerusalem Radio]* 59
Al-Asad Remarks, 'Resistance' Operations Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 59
Press: Amman Economic Summit To 'Reward' Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 60
Israel Warned Not To Underestimate Resolve *[Damascus Radio]* 60
Radio: 'New Middle East' Serves Israeli Interests *[Damascus Radio]* 61
Israeli Accountability for Palestinians Demanded *[AL-BA'TH 10 Oct]* 62
Radio Commentary Urges Change in Israel Stand *[Damascus Radio]* 62
Papers Underline Government Position on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 63
Israel Seen 'Procrastinating' on Taba Accord *[AL-BA'TH 5 Oct]* 64
Israeli Attacks, 'Incomplete' Accords Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 64
Success of Damascus-Lebanon Track Underscored *[Damascus Radio]* 65
Israel 'Not Mature Enough' To Make Peace Decision *[Damascus Radio]* 66
Peace With Occupation Called 'Impossible' *[Damascus Radio]* 67
Al-Khuri on Damascus-Beirut Cooperation *[AL-BA'TH 11 Sep]* 68

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Taleban Denies Accord With Anti-Rabbani Opposition *[IRNA]* 70
Taleban Reportedly Launches New Attacks Near Kabul 70
Takes Positions South, West of Kabul *[AFP]* 70
Said Repulsed by Government Troops *[Tehran International]* 70
Said 'Fleeing' From Battlefield Lines *[Kabul Radio]* 71
Government Forces Attack Taleban in Herat Province 71
'Mojahedin' Launch Attack *[AFP]* 71
Mojahedin Take Herat in 'Uprising' *[Kabul Radio]* 71
Forces Recapture 'Strategic' Posts *[Tehran International]* 72
Taleban: Government Troops Forced Back *[AFP]* 72
Government Move Said 'Total Failure' *[AFP]* 72
Taleban Denies Fighting in Herat *[AFP]* 72
Taleban Denies Fall of Herat *[IRNA]* 73
Government, Taleban Said Fighting on Iranian Border *[AFP]* 73
Heavy Fighting Reported on Border *[AFP]* 74
Ministry Says Islamic Forces Advance in Sanglakh *[Kabul Radio]* 74
Forces Clear Sanglakh of Taleban *[Kabul Radio]* 74

Bangladesh

Iranian President Rafsanjani Continues Visit 74
Views U.S. Sanctions, Other Issues *[Tehran International]* 74
Ends Visit; Communique Issued *[Dhaka Radio]* 75
Antigovernment General Strike Said Under Way *[AFP]* 76

India

PRC Reportedly Shows Goodwill Gesture to Minister *[DECCAN CHRONICLE 2 Oct]* 76

UK Official Discusses Economic Ties With Ministers *[Delhi TV]* 77
Kashmir 'Militants' Arrested for Plotting Bomb *[Delhi Radio]* 77
Rao Views Kashmir Issue, Election Preparations *[Delhi Radio]* 77
Development of Modified Prithvi Missile Reported *[Delhi Radio]* 78

Iran

Article Addresses Government's 'Anti-U.S. Spirit' *[Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA 18 Oct]* ... 78
Ministry Denies Afghan Forces Operate in Country *[Tehran TV]* 80
Ayatollah Khamene'i Arrives in Sari, Makes Speech *[Tehran Radio]* 80
Yazdi Delivers Tehran Friday Prayer Sermon *[Tehran Radio]* 81
Daily Discusses Turkish Motivation in Iraq *[ETTELA'AT 9 Oct]* 83
German Parliament Speaker Pays Official Visit 84
Comments on 'Irreversible' Ties *[Tehran Radio]* 84
Details Issues on Agenda *[IRNA]* 85
Addresses 'Historical Friendship' *[IRNA]* 85
Holds Talks With Majles Official *[IRNA]* 85
Discusses Ties With Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 86
Economy Minister Briefs IMF on Nation's Growth *[IRNA]* 86
Daily Addresses Price Reduction of Iron Goods *[RESALAT 13 Jul]* 87

Pakistan

Bhutto Comments on Afghanistan, Karachi, Israel *[Islamabad Radio]* 89
Further on Bhutto Comments *[THE NATION 15 Oct]* 89
Troops Move to Afghan Border To Halt Refugee Flow *[THE NATION 15 Oct]* 90
Aircraft Checked To Stop Arms' Flow to Afghanistan *[NAWA-I-WAQT 12 Oct]* 91
Bhutto Bars al-Faran 'Kidnappers' From Entering *[AFP]* 91
Indian Troops Reportedly Kill 3 in Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 91

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Reportedly To Halt Expulsions

JN1310211295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources, our correspondent in Cairo Hanadi al-Imam said that Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has pledged to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to stop the expulsion of Palestinians from Libya and to grant those who are present in the camp on the Libyan-Egyptian border the right to return to Libya within 10 to 15 days.

According to the same sources, Israel has approved the return of 400 Palestinians who are present in the camp and who have return permits.

To Delay Expulsions Until Mid-1996

NC1310170095 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 11

[Report by Najwan 'Abd-al-Latif]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egyptian efforts have succeeded in finding a solution to the predicament of the Palestinians expelled from Libya. During Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Libya, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi agreed to keep the Palestinians in Libya until the middle of next year.

Meanwhile Muhammad Subayh, the permanent Palestinian representative at the Arab League said: President 'Arafat has been discussing during his meetings with Palestinian [as published] officials, most recently during a meeting with Peres, the prospect of allowing those expellees to enter the territories.

Subayh added: We know, however, that Israel is not a humanitarian state and views issues from the narrow perspective of its own immediate interests alone. [passage omitted]

Arab League Chief on Israel, Libya's UN Role

NC1510080495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0609 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that the Arabs have a vision and concept for the future of the Middle East region and that they should trust their abilities and potential and improve their use of them.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid, who returned to Cairo yesterday evening after taking part in the 20th anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Arab-British Trade Chamber, said in statements to the AL-AHRAM newspaper published today that Arab absence from any conferences or meetings to discuss the future of the region is not in our favor. We need to express our opinion on everything taking place around us.

He pointed out that he will participate in the upcoming Amman summit to express the Arab League's opinion on all the ideas proposed. He clarified that in order to cooperate economically with Israel, we need to resolve all our political problems with it first. We cannot approve economic cooperation with Israel before Israel actually signs a comprehensive and just peace with the Arab countries.

'Abd-al-Majid clarified that the Middle East market must not scare us because we have confidence in the abilities of the Arab nation. I do not believe that 4 million Israelis will manage to control the resources of 250 million Arabs. 'Abd-al-Majid called on the Arab nation to cooperate, not clash with the current stance.

The Arab League secretary general defended the Palestinian-Israeli agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. He said: The process is taking place in steps. Today there is a Palestinian entity that started from below zero. Previously, nobody would have imagined that there could be a Palestinian passport because Israel adopted the policy of expelling Palestinians from their land—the transfer [preceding word in English] policy.

On increasing membership in the Security Council, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid clarified that as Arab countries, we support the expansion of the council so that there is a permanent seat which rotates among the Arab countries. He pointed out that there is in fact a permanent seat in the Security Council for the Arabs but this occurs by cordial agreement.

He confirmed that Libya has acquired Arab and African support to occupy this seat, but we have to be ready because anything can happen.

On the special proposal that Egypt should occupy a permanent seat in the Security Council, 'Abd-al-Majid said that a decision has not been made yet to expand the council. Attempts are being made to find out greater details about the form of the new council.

Regarding the Lockerbie crisis, he affirmed that Libya's stance is backed by legal bases which make it strong. He said we will continue to support Libya's stance on the crisis.

He pointed out that the League cares about developing relations with the Soviet Union as a group. But, he said, I cannot prevent the Arab countries from negotiating individually with the Soviet Union. They are practicing

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

their legal and sovereign right to negotiate over and defend their interests.

'Abd-al-Majid stated that the Arab League continues its efforts to gain approval to establish an Arab court of justice. This proposal will be discussed once again during the League's session in March. He pointed out that this topic was postponed after Libya and other Arab countries submitted proposals on the draft structure of such a court during the foreign ministers' meeting in September.

Financial Crisis Hits Arab League Budget

NC1510211595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Employees of the Arab League in Cairo and its offices abroad are facing the problem of not having their salaries paid this month or the coming ones as a result of the grinding financial crisis which the League has been facing for several months and which has made it unable to pay the headquarters' electricity, water, and telephone bills.

Reporting this in its issue tomorrow, Monday [16 October], AL-AHRAM adds that the deficit in this year's budget has reached more than 46 percent of the overall budget of $27.637,224, of which $15,121,865 was spent during the past months. It says that the League hopes that one of the member states will pay the remaining part of its budget share for this year, which is $600,000, to save the organization and pay the employees' salaries.

The paper adds that the crisis is continuing because some member states have not paid the arrears of their shares of the budget up to 1994 — of which $80,468,431 is not disputed by the member states and $25,715,715 is under dispute. It notes that seven countries — Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Djibouti, Mauritania, and the Comorro Islands — have not paid at all their share of the League's budget for the current fiscal year. Meanwhile, all the Arab countries without exception have undisputed arrears from the past years totalling more than $80 million.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat, Hamas Delegation Discuss PA Relations

JN1310205595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, the newspaper LA VIE FRANCAISE-L'OPINION staged a huge celebration marking the paper's golden jubilee at the al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza this evening. President 'Arafat welcomed the French guests and urged them to take part in the grand celebrations that will be held to mark the second millennium of Jesus Christ's birthday in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Gaza, and throughout all parts of the holy land in the year 2000.

President 'Arafat invited friends and faithful people all over the world to take part in these celebrations. He indicated that these celebrations will come in the aftermath of the peace of the brave we forged. The president pointed out that the first church in the world was built in Gaza. He emphasized that despite the tough circumstances, the Palestinian people, thanks to their strong willpower and the help of friends and brothers, have managed to change things in Gaza for the better.

In a separate development, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidential Office, has stated that President 'Arafat met with a leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] delegation of the West Bank at the Presidential Office in Gaza today. He indicated that the Hamas delegation reiterated to President 'Arafat that Hamas is serious about its efforts to reach an accord with the National Authority [NA; Palestinian Authority, PA] in order to protect national unity and build the homeland.

The secretary general of the Presidential Office added: We have felt that Hamas understands the new realities and the Palestinian circumstances, and that all parties are eager to bring about stability and achieve national goals.

'Abd-al-Rahim pointed out that President 'Arafat told the delegation that the NA is eager to achieve security and public peace for the populace, and that it looks forward to see all contribute to the construction of the Palestinian state's institutions. 'Arafat also underlined the NA's concern to promote national unity, consecrate political pluralism, protect the right of all to express their views through the appropriate democratic means, and foster the right of all to take part in the elections in terms of voting and nomination.

'Abd-al-Rahim concluded by saying that President 'Arafat met with the Hamas good offices committee, which has recently returned to Gaza, at the Presidential Office yesterday after it had met with Hamas leaders in Khartoum.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Paper Details 'Arafat-Hamas Meetings

NC1510210295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2035 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al- Rahim, the Palestinian Authority's presidential secretary, revealed the details of two meetings held recently between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and representatives of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas.

In its issue tomorrow, Monday [16 October], AL-AHRAM cites 'Abd- al-Rahim as saying that Hamas representatives underlined during their meetings with 'Arafat the importance of maintaining Palestinian unity. They also stressed that they support withdrawal from any part of the West Bank and Gaza and that they recognize the Palestinian National Authority as the sole authority regardless of Hamas' political stand toward it. The Hamas leaders said that they are looking toward the coexistence of the authority and the opposition under the sovereignty of law and benefiting from past experiences.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that President 'Arafat stressed on his part that he supports political pluralism, but not pluralism of authority. 'Arafat said: We have taken our first step toward our objective, which has not been achieved yet, namely the establishment of the Palestinian state with Holy Jerusalem as its capital.

AL-AHRAM notes that the first meeting was held last Thursday night between 'Arafat and four Hamas officials after their return from Khartoum, where they met with the Hamas leaders abroad. The second meeting was held on Friday afternoon between 'Arafat and eight Hamas leaders from the West Bank.

PA Accuses Hamas of Blocking Reconciliation

NC1410140795 Paris AFP in English
1251 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 14 (AFP) — Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority has accused hardline Hamas leaders in exile of blocking an accord to reconcile relations between the two groups, a senior official was quoted as saying here Saturday [14 October].

"The members and leadership of Hamas in Gaza want to reach an accord, but the Hamas leadership outside the area has put up obstacles," said al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the authority, in a interview with the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM.

Al-Rahim, however, remained confident about reaching an accord, despite two months of fruitless negotiations.

"I don't think that the internal leadership will allow the external leadership to continue to stall," he added.

Al-Rahim said he hoped that the "exterior Hamas leadership will react positively to the desire for reconciliation by the overwhelming majority of Hamas locally."

The self-rule authority is trying to persuade the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to take part in the first Palestinian elections due next year under the autonomy accord agreed with Israel and signed in Washington on September 28.

In return, 'Arafat is seeking a pledge from the militant group that it will end its bloody campaign of violence. Many of the groups leader are based in Syria and Sudan.

Hamas, which has seen many of its supporters jailed by the self- rule authority, issued a pamphlet Friday denying reports that it was prepared to renounce its armed struggle against the Jewish state.

Al-Rahim said in the newspaper interview that "several Hamas members in Gaza, including the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam military wing, have started to recognize the negative fallout from the military operations" on the Palestinian people.

He said the Hamas leadership in exile is "isolated and only holds the purse strings" of the group.

Al-Rahim added that the authority had shown its goodwill by releasing this month a prominent Hamas leader, Mahmud al-Zahhar.

PA Said Ready To Recognize Hamas as 'Legitimate'

TA1510091095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement sources said that within the framework of the dialogue between their organization and the Palestinian Authority [PA], the PA has agreed to recognize Hamas as a legitimate movement and stop harassing it and its leadership.

The sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the PA has also agreed to the establishment of a joint committee in order to supervise the implementation of the agreement between it and Hamas.

Meanwhile, Muhammad al-Hindi, one of the leaders of the Islamic Jihad, asserted that his movement is not engaged in any dialogue with the PA, nor does it coordinate its positions with Hamas on this issue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Qaddumi Talks With Oppositionists in Damascus

MM1310133195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Qaddumi Seeks To Revive the Executive Committee and Arrange a Meeting of Its Oppositionist Members"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has continued his talks with members of the Palestinian opposition in Damascus. He met with Khalid al-Fahum, leader of the Palestine National Salvation Front, Abu-Ahmad Fu'ad, military official in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] led by George Habash, and Mahir al-Tahir, its information official.

Palestinian sources have confirmed to AL-HAYAH that the intensive talks which Qaddumi (Abu-al-Lutf) has held for months with the Palestinian opposition aim, "in practice, to oppose the abolition of the PLO and to work to prevent the replacement of the Palestine National Council [PNC] with the Executive Council which is to be elected (in the West Bank and Gaza Strip) under the Oslo agreement." The sources explained that his recent talks "dealt with a search for a mechanism to fill the void in the PLO, caused by the fact that its institutions are paralyzed, so that it is necessary to arrange a meeting, under Qaddumi's leadership, between the seven oppositionist Executive Committee members." The sources expect the meeting to be held in Damascus.

The sources said that those who attended the talks stressed "the importance of reviving the popular organizations and the students' and teachers' unions, trying to crystallize the people's committees in Nabulus, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem to include representatives of the 10 factions [opposed to the peace process] and independent figures in order to work on the ground against the settlements operation, and holding contacts with some figures abroad to oppose the Oslo agreement." The sources added that Qaddumi also discussed the possibility that President 'Arafat might try to abolish "the PNC and replace it with the self-rule Council which is to be elected."

The sources cited Qaddumi as saying: "I am against such a position and would prefer, therefore, that the 82 (Executive Council) members become members of the PNC."

The sources pointed out that the meetings dealt also with the conditions of Palestinians in Libya and Lebanon "and that we have agreed to continue contacts with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to halt the expulsions." They added that the Libyan leadership had "invited a delegation from the 10 factions to travel to Libya but that the factions' leadership refused unless the measures were halted, which led to the departure of Talal Naji, deputy to Ahmad Jibril, leader of the PFLP — General Command [sentence as published]. The leadership pointed out that the Lebanese "have assured us that they will facilitate the entry of Palestinians into Lebanese territory, but entry visas are required."

Sources Cited on Damascus Talks

JN1310134895 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 14-20 Oct p 15

[FBIS Translated Text] Well-informed Palestinian sources revealed that the talks held between Faruq Qaddumi, head of PLO Political Department, and high ranking Syrian officials in Damascus, are of exceptional significance considering the topics which will be discussed during the meeting.

The sources said that the Syrian officials proposed to Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] to host the meeting of the Executive Committee in Damascus, with the presence of Yasir 'Arafat, provided that Qaddumi chairs the meeting if the Palestinian president refuses to do so. This would pave the way for the convocation of a session for the Palestine National Council [PNC] in Damascus to discuss the latest developments of the peace process on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The sources say that Qaddumi, who is forming a Palestinian coalition that opposes the Oslo and Taba agreements, has not yet responded to this Syrian proposal, and that he prefers to wait until final decisions are made on all the issues on the Syrian-Palestinian agenda. Most prominent among these issues is the Syrian response to Abu-al-Lutf's request to release all the immovable Palestinian property, which includes houses, offices, and farms in Syria estimated at $100-150 million to finance the Palestinian opposition which is currently suffering from severe financial problems.

Palestinian circles view Abu-al-Lutf's move as a preemptive step to prevent the PNC from convening and amending the charter as agreed upon in the Taba agreement. According to President 'Arafat's close advisers, Qaddumi is wagering on the lack of quorum when the Council is convened or when the charter is amended. The amendment requires a two-thirds majority of the council members and not just two thirds of those present.

In a related development, SHIHAN learned from informed Palestinian sources in Damascus that the Syrian leadership urged opposition factions to show some response to Abu-al-Lutf's steps to rally the opposition

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

within the framework of the PLO. The sources added that Syrian officials are trying to mediate between this Fatah leader [Qaddumi] and the Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] faction, which seceded from the Fatah movement, on the basis that such a step is bound to provide moral backing for the opposition. However this step is still met with reservations on the part of this Palestinian leading figure.

The sources say that Qaddumi's meetings in Damascus will also deal with the possibility of Syria's approval to grant Qaddumi a residence in Damascus in addition to his official residence in Tunis.

The National Authority sources, who are watching Abu-al-Lutf's moves with concern, reservation, and displeasure comment on his recent steps by saying that Qaddumi seems to yearn for his Ba'thist roots and the coming days will prove whether these roots will be stronger than his historical allegiance and distinguished role in Fatah and the PLO.

Qaddumi, Hawatimah Call For Boycott of Elections

JN1310132395 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting was held in Damascus today between Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department. After the meeting, the two men called for a meeting comprising the PLO Executive Committee and all Palestinian political forces and figures after which a boycott to the self-rule council elections will be announced.

Denounce Oslo, Taba Accords

JN1310164695 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 13 Oct (SANA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, met with a delegation from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by Nawif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Front.

A statement released here said the two sides emphasized the illegitimacy of the Oslo-1 and Oslo-2 agreements and called for boycotting the self-rule council elections.

Qaddumi stressed that the PLO has nothing to do with Oslo agreements that have been concluded behind the back of the Palestine National Council and the PLO Executive Committee.

He said that rescuing the homeland and the Palestinian people requires practical steps on the part of the PLO to declare the illegitimacy of the agreements in Oslo and Taba, which were rejected by the majority of the PLO Executive Committee members.

The two sides said the limited self-rule agreements divided the homeland into isolated islands surrounded by occupation and settlements, and dispersed the people into scattered communities in the occupied territories and abroad. He added: This led to the confiscation of the right to self-determination and the destruction of the legislative and executive PLO establishments.

Ghawshah Denies Hamas Will Participate in Elections

MM1310132495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Salamah Ni'mat: "Ghawshah Confirms Formation of Political Party, Denies Participation in Elections"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) in Jordan, has confirmed that the movement's shura institutions have agreed to form a political party, but categorically denied that the movement has decided to participate in the Palestinian self-rule elections, while President Yasir 'Arafat has stressed that HAMAS has decided "to participate with all its capabilities in all political steps, including elections."

Ghawshah told AL-HAYAH that the shura institutions within the movement have decided to boycott the elections because they are directly linked to the Oslo agreement and overseen by "the Israeli occupation." He added that among the other reasons for boycotting the elections is the fact that they do not include the Palestinian people inside [the territories] and abroad and because "they are not held in a free and impartial atmosphere, away from political pressures."

He pointed out that the party Hamas has decided to form "is not an alternative" to the movement but "represents the movement's political arm, just as the al-Qassam Battalions represent its military arm." He stressed that the party's program "cannot contradict the movement's constants and principles, so this party cannot recognize the Zionist entity or the Oslo agreements, or participate in the self-rule elections."

He added that the Hamas leadership has decided to postpone the announcement of the party's formation "until the right time." [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

PPP To Take Part in Autonomy Elections

JN1310164195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian People's Party [PPP], formerly the Palestinian Communist Party, today announced it has decided to take part in the Palestinian self-rule council elections due to be held in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In a statement to our correspondent Yasir 'Atilah, Sulayman al- Najjab, member of the PPP's Political Bureau, has said: Now that the self-rule council membership will be 82, and given the fact that the PPP is not opposed to negotiations with Israel per se, but rather to the way in which these negotiations are conducted and to Israel's mode of implementing the accord, I am for participation in the elections.

Al-Najjab added that the PPP wants to remain in opposition and monitor the performance of the self-rule authority from within the self-rule council.

'Abd-al-Rahim on Hamas, Elections, Prisoners

JN1410121195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0505 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Interview with PA Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim by Yusuf al-Qazzaz, chief editor of the Jericho Voice of Palestine, on 14 October; place not given; from "A New Day" program — live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Qazzaz] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidential Office in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA; Palestinian Authority, PA], good morning.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Good morning, brother Yusuf.

[Al-Qazzaz] The Palestinians say you are the godfather of the dialogue between Fatah and the [Palestinian] Authority on one hand and the [Islamic Resistance Movement] Hamas on the other. Everybody is eager to know the results of this dialogue.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Yesterday, the leading Hamas delegation of the West Bank visited the president and the meeting was positive and constructive. The meeting showed Hamas' good intentions, understanding of the situation, and readiness to participate in building the homeland.

Also, the brother president yesterday met with the mediation committee, which played a positive and good role and which visited Khartoum recently to meet with the Hamas leaders abroad. The message conveyed to us by the brothers in the mediation committee is promising, God willing. The message says that Hamas is serious in its efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement with the PA in all areas. In fact, these meetings are not new. They have continued through the mediation committee, or through direct contacts with Hamas leaders in Gaza or the West Bank. This shows that the Palestinian people are alive and concerned about their national unity, stability, and building their homeland. These people are also interested in proceeding toward their national objective; namely, establishing their independent state.

[Al-Qazzaz] So far, then, the meetings are constructive and there is something constructive in the horizon, brother al-Tayyib 'Abd-al- Rahim?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Of course, the brothers in the mediation committee informed us that Hamas will be forming a delegation from the West Bank, Gaza, and abroad to hold internal dialogue first, and then to hold dialogue with the National Authority to reach an agreement. As they informed, they are ready for this meeting with the PA in the second half of October.

[Al-Qazzaz] A Hamas official, Dr. al-Zahhar, informed our radio that Hamas will form a political party. In your capacity as one of the decision makers in the PA, on what ground will the parties law be based?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Brother Yusuf, we support political pluralism, freedom of opinion, and citizens' rights in the Palestinian arena. These are the three pillars of democracy. I am saying we are with political pluralism, not authority pluralism. The brothers in all opposition factions believe in this rule and conviction; namely, that there is only one authority. Since we support political pluralism and since the brothers in the opposition factions support political pluralism, this means that they all have the right to set up the organization — whether in the form of a movement, party, or front — which expresses their political view.

We presented a draft parties law to the political forces, politicians, and the people to discuss it and to make the necessary amendments to achieve the objective of national unity and the participation of all parties in building the homeland.

Since they all agreed, in principle, on political pluralism, they are free to announce the form through which they will present their political ideas. There is a trend in Hamas — as came in their internal circulars and public statements — to form a party which will express their views. As the brother president said a few days ago, this party has a right to take part in the political process in terms of elections, nomination, and voting. Political pluralism is accepted by all, and political pluralism has its own rules. The people are the ones who decide their representative. So, all these political forces should present their programs to the people before elections. If Hamas wants to participate in the elections then

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

this is its right and if it does not want to participate in the elections then it accepted to be isolated for a period of time. However, sooner or later everybody will participate in this political process.

[Al-Qazzaz] Hamas was cited as saying yesterday, Friday, that it will stop acts of violence and operations. Do you believe this is in harmony with the new trends of Hamas?

['Abd-al-Rahim] We say to all brothers in the opposition factions — Hamas, Jihad, and the PLO-affiliated opposition factions — that all must honor the commitments of the PLO. This does not mean that they should agree on them; they have the right to oppose these commitments through peaceful and democratic methods. We communicated this message to Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank. The dialogue which will be held between the authority and Hamas is unconditional and all issues will be placed on the table. We hope that the brothers in the opposition factions honor these commitments and that the PA will guarantee the right to oppose these agreements, that is, each can express his opinion through the known methods.

[Al-Qazzaz] Since early this morning, the Palestinian territory has been witnessing a general strike in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners. It has been noticed that the PNA has not intervened in this popular move called for by the Palestinian popular organizations. What is your opinion?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Our Palestinian people are knowledgeable; they follow developments. Their decision is always a national one. The popular organizations and institutions decided to stage this strike in protest of the Israeli violations regarding the implementation of the recent agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles. The strike also came in protest against the failure to release the female Palestinian prisoners and the other prisoners, as well as against the procrastination in implementing the redeployment from the Palestinian populated areas. We do not intervene with the popular organizations, however, we highly praise their work. These organizations reiterate that our Palestinian people, who are alert and have high political awareness, cannot be deceived or bypassed.

[Al-Qazzaz] The PA Council of Ministers will hold a meeting today. What are the most important topics to be discussed?

['Abd-al-Rahim] Brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will leave for Malta on a swift important visit. After his return this evening, God willing, the PA Council of Ministers will hold a meeting. If the president delays his return, the Council of Ministers will meet tomorrow. The Council is expected to meet this afternoon after the president's return.

Regarding the topics which will be discussed, the meeting between the president and the Israeli foreign minister will be on the agenda. And the council will decide on the topics which the brother president will discuss with the Israeli foreign minister, particularly the violations, procrastination, and obstacles placed by the Israeli side on the path of implementing the second phase agreement of the Declaration of Principles.

[Al-Qazzaz] Particularly since there are international political witnesses to the signing of the agreement?

['Abd-al-Rahim] The brother president led the Palestinian move in this regard. The PA held contacts with the American and Russian sides, with the European Troika, and with the Egyptian and Jordanian brothers, as well as all those who attended the signing ceremony and were witnesses to it. We urged them to move swiftly to stop this Israeli procrastination, particularly regarding the timetable of withdrawal.

[Al-Qazzaz] You certainly followed the Israeli withdrawals from Qabatiyah, Kharbatah, Yatta, and Salfit and saw the Palestinian people's eagerness to see the PA arrive there. What will you offer to the Palestinian people in these areas when you move to them as a PNA?

['Abd-al-Rahim] First, security for the homeland and citizens, and second, economic development for our people who suffered for a long time — both are linked. There is no economic development without security and there is no security without economic development. These are our first tasks. In addition to this, we will continue to build our institutions on democratic bases to lay down the first bricks on the path of building the independent state, God willing.

[Al-Qazzaz] We wish you success, brother al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidential Office in the PNA. Good morning and thank you.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Thank you, brother Yusuf.

'Abd-al-Rahim Delivers Speech on Prisoners

JN1410152895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidential Office in the Palestinian National Authority, delivered a political speech to the Palestinian masses in Gaza at noon today, stressing support for the Palestinian female and male prisoners in the Israeli occupation jails.

'Abd-al-Rahim said Israel should annul Israeli President Weizman's justifications for keeping our male and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

female prisoners in jail, and also urged the Israeli side to work for peace. We on the Palestinian side, he said, are prepared to meet our people in the West Bank. Our people's support for our prisoners means that our people are alive and are struggling to establish their Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of President Yasir 'Arafat.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that our Palestinian people are rallying around the fateful issue of the female and male prisoners, and they will not tolerate any delay in implementing agreements with Israel. Our people, he added, will not rest until the homeland is liberated and the female and male prisoners are freed. He added: We pledge to you in the name of President Yasir 'Arafat and the National Authority that we will continue to stick to our national goal of establishing our independent state.

'Arafat Criticizes Israel's Jerusalem Policy

JN1510102095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat said that Israel wants to impose a policy of fait accompli before reaching agreement on the final status of Jerusalem, the historical, cultural, spiritual Palestinian capital, where the three divine religions of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism meet.

In his address to the participants at the international economic conference in Malta yesterday, President 'Arafat said that without real and tangible progress represented by the Israeli withdrawal from populated areas in the near future, the enemies of peace will exploit the stalemate and procrastination to cast doubts on the use and benefits of peace.

'Arafat, U.S. Consul Discuss Israeli Delays

JN1310205195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received U.S. Consul-General Edward Abington today.

The president briefed the U.S. diplomat on the latest developments in the peace process and the negotiations on the implementation of the Taba agreement which is related to the second stage of the Declaration of Principles, as well as on the Israeli procrastination in implementing this agreement.

'Urayqat Views 'Arafat-Peres Meeting, Elections

NC1610085395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government in the Palestinian Authority, in Gaza, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Welcome to Voice of the Arabs, Dr. 'Urayqat.

['Urayqat] Thank you.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What happened at Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday?

['Urayqat] A specific timetable for the first stage of the redeployment of the Israeli troops from the West Bank was agreed upon. The redeployment will begin on 25 October in the Janin area with the inauguration of the Joint Coordination Committee headquarters. Total Israeli withdrawal from that region will be achieved by 19 November. By then, they will have begun preparations to withdraw from the Tulkarm region, where redeployment of the Israeli troops and entry of the Palestinian troops is scheduled by 10 December. The deadline for redeployment in the Nabulus and Qalqilyah areas is 17 December; 20 December in Bethlehem, prior to Christmas; and 31 December in Ramallah. As for Hebron, redeployment from there will be completed in March.

They also agreed to reactivate the steering committee. That committee will come under the jurisdiction of the Israeli Foreign Ministry; this is the first time Palestinian-Israeli relations will be taken from the Israeli Defense Ministry and handled by the Foreign Ministry. The first meeting of this committee is scheduled to be held in the Local Government Ministry in Jericho on Tuesday [17 October]. As for the release of the female Palestinian detainees, the Israelis promised to intensify their efforts to release all female detainees.

This was the crux of the meeting between President 'Arafat and Minister Peres.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Regarding the female Palestinian detainees, does Israel genuinely intend to release them?

['Urayqat] The failure to release all female detainees from Israeli jails is a flagrant violation of the agreement, which provided for their release in the first batch of prisoners to be freed. As you know, this Israeli procrastination is caused by the Israeli president, even though the agreement authorizes the Israeli Government to release them without having to refer back to the president. They promised at yesterday's meeting to reconsider the matter and to do more to secure the release of all detainees. No definite commitment was given and no date was set for their release, but discussion will continue.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] As is known, Israel is purposely prevaricating in its negotiations with you. Did you feel this in the negotiations that followed the Taba Agreement?

['Urayqat] We have been experiencing this since the agreement was signed. However, we have a specific timetable with fixed dates, so I hope this time Israel will honor these dates. What we need now is an honest mechanism for implementing the agreement. Since the signing of the agreement, we have found that there have been no practical steps to implement it. Yesterday's meeting opened a new window for implementing the agreement. As I said earlier, there is a specific timetable with definite dates, which I hope will be thoroughly complied with by the Israelis.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the question of Palestinian elections?

['Urayqat] The election is an internal Palestinian issue. Preparations are under way on all the measures needed to hold presidential and legislative elections as soon as possible. We have completed training 7,000 teachers to conduct a population survey and prepare voters' lists. We are waiting for the international observers to begin their field work at the end of this month. We will do our best to hold the elections as soon as possible. We are trying to persuade the Israelis to complete their redeployment from Hebron before March 1996 so that we can hold elections as soon as possible.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Will any Palestinian faction be excluded from the elections?

['Urayqat] Let me say this. The draft election law is now in the hands of the Palestinian Authority. There is nothing in the agreement with Israel or in this law that prevents any Palestinian faction from voting in or contesting the elections. There are absolutely no restrictions preventing parties, alliances, or individuals from running in these elections. Naturally, it is up to the individual, faction, party, or group to make a political decision on this matter, but I say loud and clear that there is nothing to prevent any Palestinian party or individual from participating in the elections.

The basic requirements is that voters be at least 18 years old, regardless of gender, race, religion, or political and intellectual affiliation. Candidates must be at least 30 years old and must be Palestinians. Presidential candidates must be at least 35 years old. These are the only conditions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What about the participation of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]? Is there any agreement with Hamas on this?

['Urayqat] As I said, participation in these elections by any Palestinian political movement, either Hamas or any other one, is up to them. The arena is wide open for everybody to participate. I believe we should wait for these parties themselves to say whether or not they will contest these elections.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Thank you Dr. 'Urayqat.

Islamic Jihad Holds Anti-Israel Rally in Gaza

NC1310165795 Paris AFP in English
1604 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Oct 13 (AFP) — The radical Palestinian group Islamic Jihad held a rally in self-ruled Gaza City on Friday [13 October] calling for "death to Israel" and pledging to keep up the armed struggle.

An official of the group, Muhammad al-Hindi, said Palestinian police had arrested at least four Jihad members from Jabalya refugee camp the previous night and prevented 20 buses from being used to ferry supporters to the rally.

"We promise to God and our people that we will not go back on our choice which states there is no place for the Zionist entity in Palestine," a Jihad leader, Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, told a crowd of around 1,500 people.

The crowd chanted "Allahu Akhbar" (God is great), "Death to Israel," and "Death to America."

Israeli and U.S. flags were trampled before being set ablaze at the rally, held to commemorate the death of six Jihad fighters in a clash with Israeli troops on October 6, 1987, a date the group marks as the start of the intifadah.

"We are called upon now, more than ever, to carry on with the Jihad (holy war). We can not stop," said the group's leader Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, who lives in Damascus, in a message read out at the rally.

Al-Hindi declined to comment on talks between another militant Islamic group, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and the Palestinian self-rule authority aimed at drawing up a formula for coexistence.

The Palestinian Authority is now holding around 20 Jihad members, including the latest four detained, he said. There was no immediate word from police on the arrests.

"If the Israeli occupation still holds close to 40 percent of the Gaza Strip, for instance, and most of West Bank land, ... we have the right to resist the occupation until it is removed," said al- Hindi.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Closure of Information Center in Hebron Assailed

JN1410171095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Information said the Israeli occupation troops' decision to close down the Ministry's center in Hebron is an attempt to foster the Israeli settlement policy in the city. A statement issued by the Ministry today said this move is an attempt to limit the city's political, cultural, and social association with the rest of the West Bank cities and population centers.

The statement said this is a serious violation of the agreements concluded with the PLO. The ministry called on all local, Arab, and world cultural establishments and peace proponents in Israel to take on this serious issue so that the peace process can keep up its momentum, and stability can be achieved in the region.

Fatah Protests Israeli Break-In at Offices

JN1410171695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Report by Nasir Abu-Bakr]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces today broke into Fatah the movement's offices in Ya'bad, Qabatya, al-Yamun, and Jaba' in a savage and barbaric way. The offices were opened just two days ago. The occupation forces tampered with and confiscated the Fatah movement's files, destroyed doors, desks, and furniture, broke windows, and arrested three Fatah cadres. They are Bilal Zakarinah, Muhammad Abu-al-Rub, and Adib Abu-al-Rub.

As a result of this unjust measure, the Fatah movement command in Janin Governorate held a news conference during which Samir Subayhat, secretary of the Fatah region in Janin, said that as part of its preparations to enable the National Authority to deploy in Janin Governorate, the Fatah movement began opening offices, particularly after the signing of the Oslo B agreement. Subayhat said that the incident expresses a trend within the Israeli Army that does not believe in the peace process and that is trying to paralyze it.

Subayhat added that measures like this will threaten the peace process, and we will reply to it forcefully. He stressed that there will be no security for the Israeli Army and the settlers if security and stability are not provided for the Palestinian citizens. He also said that the Fatah movement does not need any permit from any party to open its offices, and that the occupation should leave our land for good.

It is noteworthy that the Fatah movement urged President 'Arafat not to attend the economic summit conference in Amman in reply to Israel's recent measures, particularly its refusal to comply with the Oslo B agreement.

Peres Asked To Rethink 24 Dec Bethlehem Pullout

JN1310161695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities and mayor of Bethlehem, asked Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to reconsider the date of 24 December set by the Israeli Government for withdrawal from Bethlehem, since this is when Christmas celebrations are held. Frayj, who met with Peres at the Israeli Foreign Ministry this afternoon, told our correspondent in Bethlehem that he asked the Israeli official to move the withdrawal date back to 1 December so that the Palestinian National Security Forces can be deployed in the city.

Frayj noted that he spoke on the telephone with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the eve of his meeting with the Israeli foreign minister. He said the president expressed his dissatisfaction with the Israeli stand. His excellency stressed that Israeli withdrawal from Bethlehem should take place several weeks before Christmas.

Participation in Amman Summit Said Doubtful

JN1310163895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1250 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Interview with Marwan Kanafani, media adviser to and official spokesman for President Yasir 'Arafat, by 'Asif Humayd,; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kanafani] There is no decision on whether to participate in [the Amman economic summit]. There is a reassessment of the situation due to the pressures exerted on the president by the Palestinian citizens and businessmen, especially since this participation might not be useful as long as there is Israeli procrastination regarding the practical implementation of the signed agreements, as well as the siege on the southern Palestinian region and the Israeli closure which bans the movement of goods, exports, and imports, and the movement of people. So, people wonder about the usefulness of this participation as long as the Palestinian side will not benefit from it, whether on government or individual levels.

[Humayd] Marwan, do you expect that the Amman economic summit will provide good grounds for the Palestinians to propose ideas regarding investment projects in the National Authority areas?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Kanafani] We understand that the the objective of the Amman economic summit is to improve the economic situation in the region's states. We also understand that the Palestinian people and the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], being part of this region, should contribute to developing this region economically. We also understand that this action necessitates Palestinian participation, as well as the necessary Palestinian flexibility to reach a collective agreement on how to support and promote trade and industry. However, all this does not seem to be clear to the Palestinians. Neither will the Palestinian participation be useful. This is the reason behind reconsidering this decision. I would like to say something necessary here, that this decision on reconsidering the issue of Palestinian participation is not aimed against anyone, particularly the fraternal Jordanian Government and people, but it is based on the Palestinian interests, and proceeds from the Israeli closure of the Palestinian homeland and the failure to fulfill its obligations.

[Humayd] I believe that there is a special committee on the Amman economic summit, chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat a few days ago. Will this committee meet within the next few days to make a decision on participation?

[Kanafani] There are several technical, economic, and political committees. The decision on participation is a political, not technical or economic decision. I believe that the president and the Palestinian officials will attach special importance to this issue, especially since long-term measures have been taken. We are part of this region and are therefore interested in having a role in the region, to do our duty toward developing its economic, financial, and social situation. However, despite all that I have said, it should be clear to us that our participation must be linked to the benefit which should reflect on the Palestinian situation in general, and on the conditions of individuals in particular. We do not understand how we can contribute to improving the region's economy while we are not allowed to export a box of tomatoes. This is to make it clear: We believe that the Palestinian role in this regard will not be useful unless we permit the Palestinian citizen to do business, import, export, and move freely as a basis for the economic freedom in the entire region.

[Humayd] So, the decision not to participate, if made, will be for purely internal Palestinian reasons, not for any other reason?

[Kanafani] Yes, it will be for Palestinian reasons related to Israel's implementation of the two issues I have mentioned. First, the implementation of the political agreements signed between us and them regarding the redeployment, the detainees, and all these issues. On the other hand, the decision is also related to the siege which is almost a continuous siege on the southern part of the homeland.

[Humayd] Thank you very much Marwan Kanafani.

[Kanafani] You are welcome.

Hamas Denies Hiring Lawyers To Defend Abu-Marzuq

JN1410092995 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Oct 95 p 22

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—A press statement attributed to the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, regarding reports on hiring a U.S. firm of lawyers to defend Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, president of Hamas Political Bureau, was distributed to news agencies yesterday.

Hamas Movement said it wishes to clarify that it did not issue any statement in this regard and that what was reported in the statement is untrue. Hamas stresses that the hiring of lawyers to defend Dr. Abu-Marzuq is done through his family, which is following all the necessary legal measures, including hiring and following up the work of lawyers.

Donor States Advise $550 Million for Infrastructure

JN1310212095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During its regional meeting today, the donor states joint coordination committee and the local aid committee recommended presenting a list of new infrastructure projects in Palestine, which cost $550 million, to the Paris conference for donor states due to be held next week. The meeting at special UN coordinator Terje Larsen's office in Gaza discussed the joint three-party plan, which includes the National Authority, the donor states, and Israel, with the purpose of reviewing it as it differs from the requirements and conditions set last April.

Dr. Anis al-Qaq, under secretary of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, told PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, that the meeting was positive and that it discussed and was acquainted with the Paris conference. He said that if the National Authority receives the above-mentioned amount of money, then this will constitute the cornerstone for improving the infrastructure and helping it implement its various programs.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dr. al-Qaq added it is possible that the agreed on projects will be presented at the donor states conference due to be held next month to obtain support for them as well as the Holst Fund and Palestinian Police Fund. President Yasir 'Arafat demanded that the latter be replenished and increased in order to meet Palestinian needs during the next stage.

In Washington, it was learned that by the end of this year, donor states and organizations will release a significant amount of aid that could reach approximately $5 billion.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Four Candidates Fulfill Conditions for Elections

LD1410172395 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Four figures have fulfilled the conditions for nomination to the presidential elections, according to a statement today by the Constitutional Council. These figure are alphabetically [Arabic alphabet]: Noureddine Boukrouh, Liamine Zeroual, Said Sadi, and Mahfoud Nahnah.

The Constitutional Council, convened today to study the applications of candidates in the first round [of the elections] to be held on 16 November, released its statement after deliberation and in accordance with Article 23 of its statute.

Bomb Explodes, Kills 1 in Constantine

LD1410111795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A bomb went off this morning, around 0800 hours [0700 GMT], in empty houses in the working class district of Souika in Constantine.

According to the security services, the criminal attack left behind one person dead and four others wounded and caused damages to other houses in the area. [passage omitted]

Shooting Near Government Palace Reported

LD1510090195 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] There was an outbreak of shooting at about 2200 local time on 14 October near the government palace in central Algiers. Passers-by and traders in the district panicked after the shooting. According to witnesses, some men apparently tried to attack the headquarters of the customs service, but were driven off.

Press Reports Possible Death of FIS Army Leader

LD1410104695 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1000 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The head of the Islamic Salvation Army, the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], may have been killed in the course of a vast sweeping operation by security forces operating west of Algiers. That, in any case, is what two Algerian newspapers have reported this morning, adding that he died along with 400 other armed Islamic fundamentalists.

Security Forces Kill 60 'Terrorists'

LD1510190095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement by the security services said that the security forces killed 60 terrorists over the past few days in the provinces of Chlef, the capital Algiers, Tipaza, Medea, Blida, Mostaganem, Skikda, M'Sila, Ain Defla, Mascara, Relizane, and Bouira. The same statement added that during these operations the security forces succeeded in seizing a quantity of weapons and ammunition, and communications equipments.

Diplomat Explains Defection to Opposition

MM0310104295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Oct 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Algerian Diplomat Breaks Away, Announces His Joining Of 'National Covenant'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Algerian diplomat Mohamed Larbi Zitout has announced his breakaway and joining of the Algerian opposition. In a statement to AL-HAYAH he said that he submitted an application for political asylum in Britain.

Zitout held the post of first secretary at the Algerian Embassy in the Libyan capital, Tripoli. He said that he was No. 2 at the embassy — after Ambassador Mohamed Saidi — by virtue of his responsibilities there. He added that he has decided to join the "national covenant group" and to work with it to secure a peaceful solution to the crisis in Algeria.

The Algerian diplomat (32) spoke emotionally about the deteriorating conditions in his country, saying that he made his decision "after all hopes were dashed vis-a-vis the government's call for a dialogue. The last hopes were the appointment of (Liamine) Zeroual as president and his repeated talk about dialogue and reconciliation, especially as he did not take part in the 11 January 1992 coup. It was discovered later that those who brought (the late President Mohamed) Boudiaf to power and killed him were the ones who brought Zeroual to power."

Zitout's joining of the national covenant group is an encouragement for the group, which is trying to reactivate its role abroad, now that the government has ignored its recent offer for national reconciliation, represented in the "national covenant," and imposed restrictions on its public activities in Algeria.

Zitout pointed out that several diplomatic and administrative cadres "are thinking of joining the opposition once conditions are adequate, especially the young men of the independence generation, who are fed up with

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the France party's control of power and exploitation of state institutions, including the diplomatic corps, for the sake of its interests, instead of serving the people and the state, which is being pushed toward a catastrophe." He said that one of the aims of his move is to encourage and help those who share his views to join the opposition.

He pointed out that discontent in state institutions "has increased as a result of the wasted dialogue opportunities, the continuation of violence and counter-violence, and the emergence of the national covenant group as a real hope for the country's extrication from its crisis."

He described the Rome meeting and the announcement of the national covenant by the main Algerian parties as "a historic event that has had its impact among state cadres, who found it just and responsible and who were saddened because the government rejected it." He added that "this is the first time in Algeria's contemporary history that a consensus has been achieved among the main political forces on a minimum agreement on a solution to the crisis. What makes this group more important is that it enjoys constitutional legitimacy in accordance with the results of the 26 December 1991 elections." The three quarters (the Salvation Front, the National Liberation Front, and the Socialist Forces Front) and the other figures who joined the national covenant obtained 98 percent of the seats and 85 percent of the votes in the first free elections" in Algeria.

He pointed to serious breakaways that occurred recently, most of which in the judiciary. He said that "defections from Algeria are continuing, and some of them are done through Libya toward the Arab east and Europe and include judges, engineers, and doctors. Most of these flee the country as a result of the authorities' oppression or the deteriorating security conditions. Most them say that they have received threats from Islamists, because this makes it easy for them to obtain facilities in European countries."

He expressed his hope that the announcement of his defection and joining of the opposition "will prompt those who share my view to adopt a similar position." He said that he will work with officials in the national covenant parties to forge "an opposition front against the regime whose task would be to unite Algerians and tell world public opinion that most of the people's sons want change and want the generals to be removed from power. And that this state of rejection exists even among those working within the regime."

Zitout pointed out that among the causes of the discontent among diplomats "is the powers given to the security sections at the embassies, as these have more powers than the diplomats, who are sometimes marginalized." He said that the new tasks of the embassies boil down to watching Algerians abroad. And a huge budget has been allocated to "winning over media services and paying journalists to improve the generals' image and conceal the crimes they are committing."

Zitout disclosed that instructions were sent to the embassies early in the year to the effect that the Islamists would be finished off by the beginning of June and that the embassies were required "to play a propaganda role and circulate rumors to the effect that the authorities had succeeded in taking control of the situation before the so-called presidential elections." He added: "Actually no one was convinced of that, even the embassy's staff, let alone the diplomatic corps, to which we leaked that information."

He said that the number of Algerians in Libya increased from 3,500 in 1992 to more than 40,000 now. "Most of them are escaping military service or Islamists who have fled the country because of their ideology."

He warned that there is major security rapprochement between the Libyan and Algerian authorities which could lead to the deportation of a large number of them to Algeria.

He spoke about development of security relations between the two countries, stressing that an Algerian security team arrived in Tripoli last month, offering its expertise in finishing off the Islamists. He said that he when he left Libya contacts between security services were at their peak.

He said that the story of the destruction of a convoy that had arrived from Sudan via Libya carrying weapons, ammunition, and a number of fundamentalists — a story that spread early in the year - - "is not true at all, since the security section at the embassy made inquires about it, and I read the report on it. I discovered that it had been completely fabricated by a group of people within the regime who released it to a newspaper known for supporting the eradicationists. The story says that a convoy carrying weapons and terrorists arrived from Sudan via Libya and that it was destroyed at the Algerian border. The security official contacted the security commander, who denied the matter. It became clear that the aim of the story was to prevent a meeting between (President) Zeroual and Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in I-N-Amenas on the border between the two countries, with a view to exerting pressure on him (Zeroual) to get him to put pressure on the colonel (al- Qadhdhafi) to prevent any attempt to smuggle weapons into Algeria."

He denied that any weapons have been smuggled into Algeria through Libya, pointing out that the security

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

authorities "are seriously concerned and want to tackle any possibility before it occurs."

Asked whether he leaked any information during his work to the opposition or provided facilities to it, he said: "I prefer not answer that question now. However, there are inside the government many people who support the opposition. Some of them are content with tacit support, while others go beyond that despite the risks involved."

In a statement announcing his position, a copy of which is in AL- HAYAH's possession, Zitout described the situation in his country as "a real tragedy resulting from the 11 January coup (which removed former President Chadli Bendjedid and abolished the legislative elections) hatched by a group of generals with the support of an ideological minority seeking power."

He said that the generals' policy "pushed the homeland into a dark tunnel." Having reviewed the deteriorating conditions, he announced his joining of the "national covenant group for the sake of a comprehensive and just solution that restores to the homeland its stability and security and to the people their right so as to enable them to choose the political and social system they want." Concluding, the statement said: "I seize this opportunity to urge all sincere national cadres and forces, especially, the young men in the administration, Army, and security services, to completely stand by the will of the Algerian people in order to speed up the generals' departure."

IMF, World Bank 'Happy' With Economic Reforms

LD1310224895 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1945 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the sidelines of the annual meetings of the IMF and the World Bank in Washington, Michel Camdessus, IMF Managing-Director, and James Wolfensohn, World Bank President, have received our finance minister, Ahmed Benbitour, and the governor of the Algerian Central Bank, Abdelouahab Keramane.

An Algerian source has told the ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY, APS, that the World Bank President showed great interest in Algeria's efforts in the economic field and reiterated, to the Algerian officials, the World Bank's support for its efforts to balance its budget and to build more houses.

However, the meeting between the two Algerian officials and Michel Camdessus was also an opportunity to make a general evaluation of the economic situation and the progress of the economic reforms, [the source added].

In a statement to APS, Michel Camdessus reiterated that he was happy with the way Algeria had been implementing its agreement with the IMF and with the Algerian officials' determination to carry out their commitments. Faiza Mostfaoui reports:

[Mostfaoui] The IMF managing director Michel Camdessus said in Washington yesterday that he was very satisfied with the implementation of the Algerian economic reforms and with the Algerian authorities' determination to comply with their commitment.

In a statement to APS, Camdessus pointed out that everyone knew the difficult circumstances in which the Algerian authorities had to implement such reforms; they had been implemented under the most difficult circumstances imaginable. However, he insisted that Algeria managed to implement the financial facilities extended by the IMF since the beginning of this year in similar fashion to its implementation of last year's Stand-by Agreement,

In this respect, however, Camdessus pointed out that there were still goals which must be realized in order to carry out the Algerian economic reforms successfully, i.e., price stability, serious management of the country's finances, an open-door policy, investment in the social sector, an anti-poverty drive, and an end to the crisis facing the country's social housing.

Michel Camdessus indicated, however, that 40,000 housing units were built in 1993 and 80,000 housing units were built in 1994 within the framework of the Stand-by Agreement and it is expected that another 80,000 housing units would be built this year, he added.

The IMF managing director concluded his statement by saying that the social benefits from the Algerian economic reforms, backed by both the IMF and the World Bank, had begun to bear fruit despite the very difficult circumstances.

Egypt

Suits Filed Against Rabin, Sharon on POW's

NC1510112195 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 9 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Nur-al-Huda Zaki]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first sessions of the case trying Israel in Egypt over the crimes of killing the Egyptian POW's and burying them alive in the Sinai during the 1967 battle will start in Cairo on Saturday, 14 October 1995.

Case number 8907/95 was filed at the courts by prisoner number 1209, Sergeant Amin 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad Jum'ah from infantry Brigade 118 during the battle

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

of 1967. The case will be viewed by the southern Cairo court, department 10. A group of lawyers nominated by the Lawyers' Association and the Egyptian Human Rights Organization will litigate the case.

In his case, Prisoner Amin 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad brings charges against current Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, [former] Israeli Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, former Israeli Army Officer Arieh Biro, and the Israeli ambassador in Cairo. The prosecution publicized the names of all the defendants at the Israeli Embassy in Egypt.

The case contains a special section on the claimant's revenge for his brother, who was killed in one of the Israeli raids on Minqad Prison during early 1969.

Minister Views Talks in U.S. on Economic Ties

NC1410140695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 14 Oct (MENA)—MENA has learned that U.S. Government officials confirmed to the Egyptian delegation members who concluded their visit to Washington the United States' understanding of Egypt's stand on economic reform. MENA also learned that the U.S. understanding was clearly evident in the U.S. support for Egypt's policy and position at world forums.

During its visit to the U.S. capital, the economic delegation participated in IMF and World Bank meetings. Also contacts were made with senior U.S. officials, mainly focusing on discussion of the partnership program. The implementation of this program between Egypt and the United States began within the context of the Mubarak-Gore Initiative that was launched last year. The contacts also dealt with economic and trade ties between the two countries.

Before leaving Washington last night, Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, minister of state for international cooperation, said he met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and his senior aides. He added that they reviewed Egypt's economic reform program, the Egyptian Government's policies, and their significance and links with economic reform.

He said he thanked the U.S. treasury secretary for the United States' understanding of Egypt's stand on economic reform and its support for Egypt whether through the partnership program or at international forums. He also briefed the U.S. secretary on Egypt's policies in this regard. He said the discussion dealt with all economic and trade ties between Egypt and the United States and the partnership's role in developing these ties.

Ghali said he also met with U.S. Vice President Al Gore's adviser on national security, who oversees the implementation of the partnership accords on behalf of the U.S. side. They reviewed the measures implemented so far, in addition to arrangements for Al Gore's visit to Egypt, expected in early December.

He said they were in full agreement—in their capacity as supervisors of the implementation of the partnership accords on behalf of the Egyptian and U.S. sides—that vitality has begun to emerge in implementing economic, environmental, and technological programs. This, he remarked, provides assurances about implementing the partnership accords.

He said he also discussed these measures with senior U.S. Government trade officials with emphasis on the opening of trade channels between the two countries and studying the feasibility of establishing a free trade zone between the United States and Egypt. He added that there was also emphasis on possible ways to enable Egyptian industry to face U.S. and world competition, first by learning about Egyptian industry's requirements and then by devising plans to upgrade this industry's performance and output.

Replying to a question, Dr. Ghali emphasized that reports on the likelihood of replacing the annual aid for Egypt with partnership programs and accords with the United States are untrue. This, he noted, is because the partnership program depends on a continuous dialogue between the two sides which aims to raise the Egyptian economy's competence and performance, something that is not contingent on U.S. aid.

He clarified that the aid is a financial flow that cannot be replaced by dialogue. What can replace this aid, though, is the flow of goods, especially from Egypt to the United States, which is currently being attempted, he said.

Defense Minister, Delegation Leave for U.S.

NC1410072195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0618 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Armed Forces commander in chief and minister of defense and war production, left Cairo for the United States early this morning. He is heading a delegation of senior Army commanders invited by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry to discuss ways to develop military cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

Field Marshal Tantawi will visit several U.S. military installations and units to learn about armament systems and methods and various aspects of exchanging expertise with the Egyptian Armed Forces.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Tantawi will meet with U.S. Navy and Air Force experts, a number of senators and congressmen, chairman of the U.S. joint Air Force staff, and chairman of the U.S. Central Command.

Indian Prime Minister Arrives on Official Visit

NC1510152795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Indian Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a two day visit to Egypt, during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Indian prime minister will hold talks with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and senior Egyptian officials. The talks will deal with ways of bolstering bilateral relations in all fields, specially economic ones, and the two countries' joint efforts in fighting terrorism. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Comments on Talks With Rao

NC1510190295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Indian Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao acquires a special significance because it is a meeting between two leading personalities of the Nonaligned Movement and because it is being held prior to the Nonaligned summit.

The information minister said that the talks dealt with a number of issues on the agenda of the Nonaligned summit, slated to convene in Colombia within the next two days. The talks covered the two countries' views concerning these issues and the mechanism required to implement the resolutions expected to be issued by the summit. The two leaders discussed the future of the Nonaligned Movement under the canopy of the new world order. Al-Sharif said that the two leaders discussed the Middle East problem and the progress so far made on the various Arab-Israeli tracks.

The information minister said that the talks also touched on relations between the two countries in the various political, economic, scientific, information, and security domains. He said that the two countries will sign three agreements. The first agreement concerns the scientific and technological field; the second concerns information cooperation, and the third agreement involves the two countries' cooperation in the field of combating organized crime, including all types of terrorism.

Talks With Libya on Workers' Issues To Begin

NC1510113895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—The Ministry of Manpower and Employment will represent the Egyptian side in a meeting of the Egyptian-Libyan Consular Committee, which is expected to be held next week, to discuss all issues regarding bolstering bilateral relations between the two countries.

A responsible source at the Ministry of Manpower and Employment today stated that the meeting will review the conditions of the Egyptian workers in Libya in light of the Libyan authorities' recent statement that they protect all the rights of the Egyptians working in Libya. In addition, the meeting will discuss the possibilities for developing relations between the two countries in the fields of manpower and training and will set the grounds for the exchange of manpower between the two countries in light of the labor laws applied in the two countries.

The source pointed out that the Egyptians working in Libya legally, by official contract, are supported and backed by the Libyan officials; they also participate in the various aspects of economic activity. He clarified that currently, the situation of illegal workers is being settled in order to safeguard their rights and offer them appropriate working conditions.

Representatives from the Foreign, Interior, and Justice Ministries, in addition to the Manpower and Employment Ministry, will take part in the meeting.

'Commentary' on Summit Views Syrian Wish for Peace

NC1310182095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Commentary by Muhammad al-Sa'id Fa'iq: "Egypt's Continuing Role in Promoting the Arab Nation's Interests"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed the great value of the ongoing consultations between himself and President Husni Mubarak and their positive influence for the good of the two fraternal countries and the entire Arab nation. The Syrian president's personal view, expressed several days ago to AL-AHRAM's chief editor, was demonstrated in a practical manner during President Mubarak's brief visit to Damascus and his meeting with the Syrian leader.

The Egyptian-Syrian summit in Damascus was a faithful expression of the great importance that these two Arab leaders attach to our pan-Arab causes and of Egypt's

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sincere concern for Arab Syria's interests and the fraternal Syrian people's welfare.

As President Mubarak noted in the joint news conference at the end of his visit, the two Arab leaders' meeting was in concert with their joint quest to promote legitimate Arab objectives. It was also a good opportunity to exchange views on regional events and the regional and international efforts being made to promote the peace process. This was especially so because the visit followed President Mubarak's participation in the Washington ceremony that marked the signing of the agreement on the expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

An assessment of the peace process and of the stances of all the parties directly or indirectly concerned with the attainment of peace in the Middle East was the main subject of discussion at the summit talks. Also discussed was the Israeli stance because it is a basic factor in freezing or advancing the negotiations.

In this context, President Mubarak emphasized during the news conference his and President al-Asad's wish to solve the Palestinian issue and reactivate the Syrian negotiating track. President al-Asad pointed out that without progress in the peace process, any contacts with Israel will not influence the Arab stance. This view demonstrates the urgent need for Israel to submit concrete and clear proof of its good intentions and sincere wish to attain peace without dictating conditions or relying on faits accomplis and military power.

Current regional events, including the stagnation of the Syrian and Lebanese negotiating tracks, demonstrate the need for the Israeli political leaders to make tangible progress on these two tracks in order to preserve the credibility of the Middle East peace process. It is only logical to expect real Israeli responsiveness to the willingness of Damascus and Beirut to make peace and end the long-standing state of belligerence with Israel. At the same time, it is natural for the peace process to flounder when Damascus perceives nothing in the Israeli stance except consistent attempts to dictate conditions and impose a fait accompli in an absence of a real spirit of peace or any new ideas, which all the parties must seek in order to achieve new relations unencumbered by outdated concepts.

The Damascus summit was a meeting of leaders seeking to promote the supreme Arab interests and the best methods to achieve regional peace on practical foundations, based on the Arab people's interests and national aspirations.

Call for Foreign Supervision of Elections Dismissed

NC1410200395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1624 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, chairman of the Interparliamentary Union and speaker of the People's Assembly, has stated that any demands to invite international observers to supervise the next People's Assembly elections are unconstitutional and contravene Egyptian national sovereignty. He declared that national public opinion acts as the supreme observer of any elections.

Speaking to journalists today, Surur praised the political parties' eagerness to participate in the elections. He pointed out that national dialogue has stimulated discussion among the various political forces in the country and encouraged the parties to contest the parliamentary elections.

Regarding the opposition's demands for international supervision and control of the elections, Dr. Surur said that these demands are unconstitutional and against national sovereignty. He pointed out that, at any rate, international supervision of the elections can only take place if the state itself requests it.

He added that the Egyptian Constitution and the law pertaining to the exercise of political rights include guarantees for honest elections and make no provisions for inviting international observers. [passage omitted]

Decree Sets Date for Parliamentary Elections

NC1410145495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued Republican Decree 319/1995 calling on voters to take part in elections.

The text of the decree follows:

The President of the Republic,

After consulting the Constitution, Law 73/1956 pertaining to the exercise of political rights and consequent amendments to this law, and People's Assembly Law 38/1972 and its consequent amendments, has decreed:

Article 1:

Voters who are duly registered in accordance with Law 73/1956, mentioned above, are called upon to meet at the stations of the authorized branch election committees to elect People's Assembly members.

Article 2:

The said election will be held on Wednesday, 29 November, 1995 in the manner specified by Law 73/

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

1956. In those cases where run-off elections are necessary, they will be held on Wednesday, 6 December, 1995.

Article 3:

The new People's Assembly is invited to convene at 1100 on Wednesday, 13 December, 1995.

Article 4:

The concerned authorities are instructed to implement this decree.

Article 5:

This decree will be published in the official gazette.

Signed: Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Issued at the Presidential Office on 19 Jumada al-Ula, 1416 of the Hegira, corresponding to 14 October, 1995 A.D.

Spokesman Linked to 'Abd-al-Rahman Conviction

MM1310151695 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Oct 95 p 1

[Report by Khalid al-Shami: "Tal'at Qasim's Disappearance Arouses 'Intelligence Alarm' Over Possible Revenge for 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — He [Egyptian Islamic Group spokesman Tal'at Qasim] is currently the main preoccupation of several world intelligence organs. No one knows what happened to him after his mysterious disappearance in Croatia recently and following the conviction in New York of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman in New York for conspiring to blow up the UN building, bridges, and the FBI headquarters.

What is more serious is that no one knows anything about his future plans, or whether these plans have anything to do with revenge for the Islamic Group's spiritual leader, who is likely to be sentenced to life imprisonment next January.

Tal'at Qasim was only an "Egyptian target," merely because he is No. 2 in the armed organization accused of most of the bloody attacks carried out over the past three years. But he is now wanted by everyone, since no one knows where his new shelter or next strike will be.

Some people believe that his disappearance and the "alarm" it has aroused among security organs in several Western states has proved the "prophecy" reiterated by Egypt following Denmark's refusal to hand him over to stand trial and the decision to grant him political asylum instead. Especially as this coincided with the haphazard bombings in France and the subsequent unprecedented tight security measures on the borders between European states.

Informed security sources stress that Qasim represents the link between the Group's cells and its influential elements. He is also responsible for issuing direct orders to the Group's members in Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, and Pakistan to carry out operations. So his capture would be a "fatal blow" to the Group's organizational structure.

In Denmark, where Qasim lived as a political refugee, people are asking about his fate. Some believe that he has been abducted or eliminated. Others expect him to appear suddenly, just as he disappeared suddenly.

Informed sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that Tal'at Qasim left Denmark last time for the Netherlands, where he stayed in the house of a friend named Usamah. Then he traveled to Croatia, where he was arrested for not having the right documents. The authorities did not know his real identity. He was released after paying a small fine and was ordered to leave the country immediately.

The sources said that "he hired an interpreter when he arrived in Zagreb. He wanted to know more about the conditions Muslims are experiencing in Bosnia. He knows many of the fighters there. But the interpreter stresses that he has not seen him since his arrest. He has become a big mystery."

The sources add that "even in Denmark Muslims are greatly interested in knowing his fate. They feel they are responsible for him. But the government does not much care, as long as his disappearance is not going to cause problems among Muslims there."

Qasim became an Islamic preacher in Denmark, where he was one of the three most famous imams. He was seen for the last time at Friday prayers at a mosque in Copenhagen, where he delivered an angry sermon about the conditions and the "humiliation and scorn" suffered by Muslims.

The sources said that "he was very upset at the conviction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman. He considered it part of the international conspiracy against Islam and Muslims."

As is known, the U.S. Government declared a state of emergency in all U.S. airports and seaports and also in the vital locations following the sudden decision to convict [Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman]. It also warned its nationals abroad of possible attacks to take revenge for the shaykh.

Observers link Qasim's disappearance with possible retaliation by the Islamic Group inside the United States,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

since Denmark would not be able to turn down a U.S. request to extradite him, as it does not implement death sentences. And Denmark would think hard before turning down a U.S. request.

Observers do not rule out the possibility that Qasim may have joined colleagues operating from Peshawar or inside Afghanistan, where there is freedom of movement away from the surveillance in Denmark.

'Battalion of Death' Issues Mubarak Death Threat

NC1510155495 Paris AFP in English 1518 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAIRO, Oct 15 (AFP) - An unknown organization, apparently of Islamic extremists, calling itself "the Battalion of Death" vowed to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in a statement issued Sunday [15 October].

In its fax entitled "We defy you, Mubarak," received by AFP, the group said it aimed to kill the president for his "crimes" against the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples and his "anti-Islamic" policies.

"The Battalion of Death announces that it will hunt Mubarak everywhere and his men will have no rest until we have executed out mission," it said, adding it would use "car bombs to annihilate" him.

The group said it would carry out its threats in Egypt or "at the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Colombia, in America, or in France."

Foreign Minister Amr Mussa left Saturday for Colombia where he is to head the Egyptian delegation at the summit, which began on Sunday.

Mubarak escaped unscathed from an attempt to kill him on June 26 in Addis Ababa which was claimed by Egypt's main extremist group the Jamaa Islamiyya.

The Battalion of Death said that it was because of Mubarak that "the Palestinians are imprisoned" in the Gaza Strip and West Bank by PLO self-rule accords with Israel.

The group also condemned his "humiliating position in the cause of Bosnia's Moslems" and "his crimes against the Libyan and Iraqi peoples."

It also attacked "his campaign against Moslems in Egypt", especially military trials of "leaders in the Moslem Brotherhood movement" as well as "torture" used against militants in Egyptian prisons.

The one-page fax ended with the traditional Islamic formula "God is great and praise be to God", but had few of the other Koranic expressions found in faxes by the Jamaa or Jihad, Egypt's other main fundamentalist militia.

'Vanguards of Conquest' Urges 'Overthrow' of Regime

NC1310075895 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 6 Oct 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] On the eve of the 22d anniversary of the October 1973 war, the extremist Islamic organization "Tala'i' al-Fath" [Vanguards of Conquest] urged the Egyptian army to overthrow the ruling regime, rebel against its commanders, and join the Islamists.

Today, 6 October, marks the 22d anniversary of the "October War" during which the Egyptian army stormed the Bar-lev line and recovered vast areas of Sinai. It also marks the 14th anniversary of the 1981 assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat by members of the al-Jihad Organization. Tala'i' al-Fath is a revival of the al-Jihad Organization.

Tala'i' al-Fath issued communique no. 4 addressed to "our brother monotheists in the Egyptian Armed Forces." The communique said: "O brave sons of the armed forces. Be patient, persevere, and struggle to uphold the word of God and overthrow this agent regime."

The communique called on the army to emulate the struggling and loyal martyrs, such as Lieutenant Khalid al-Islambuli who assassinated President al-Sadat during a military parade marking the "October victory." Addressing the army, the communique added: "Do not obey the oppressors. Do not implement their orders. Exonerate yourself from all the regime's crimes. Do not trust the regime and join the ranks of your brother strugglers."

Playing on the economic hardship facing army recruits, the communique said the state wants to keep the army weak by giving it "trivial salaries" while Mubarak and his cronies receive commissions on arms deals.

President Refers Security Cases to Military Courts

NC1510150995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has referred three cases involving 30 defendants from the disbanded Muslim Brotherhood organization to military courts.

The president also referred to a military court a Higher State Security case involving terrorist groups who had returned from Sudan. Twenty-eight defendants are standing trial in this case.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The first case, Higher State Security Case 95/722, involves 16 defendants who are leaders of the disbanded Muslim Brotherhood. They are accused of stepping up their activity to revive the Muslim Brotherhood organization, inciting the citizens against the existing government, encouraging them to hate it, and alleging that it seeks to undermine the Islamist stream on the instructions of foreign powers.

The second case, Case 95/24125, involves nine defendants from the Muslim Brotherhood, including a journalist, who are accused of disseminating the Brotherhood's ideology, inciting hatred of the existing government via leaflets, doing research and holding meetings with a view to recruit new members for the organization.

The third case involves five defendants from the Muslim Brotherhood who are accused of distributing sums of money to several fugitive terrorists in the city of al-Minya and the surrounding villages.

Investigations showed that these defendants organized an anti-government media campaign by infiltrating some local and foreign media, giving interviews to foreign news agency correspondents, infiltrating some professional associations to incite their members against the existing political regime, sending leading Brotherhood members to other countries to coordinate with extremist groups, making contacts with the leaders of terrorist and extremist organizations in Upper Egypt to encourage them to carry out terrorist acts, giving them funds to finance those operations, and distributing large sums of money to their families to win their support.

Numerous leaflets, organizational documents, and sums of money used by the defendants to implement their scheme were seized with them at the time of their arrest.

The president also referred to a military court Higher State Security Case 95/234 pertaining to terrorist groups who had returned from Sudan. It involves 28 defendants, four of whom are still at large including terrorist leader Mustafa Hamzah, who is in Sudan.

According to investigations, Hamzah sent terrorists from Sudan back to Egypt after training them to form and lead new terrorist groups to carry out attacks on vital installations and public personalities. Large quantities of weapons of various types and ammunition had been prepared for these terrorists in Kawm Umbu and other areas.

In their hideouts 29 automatic rifles and pistols were found together with 1,000 bullets, 111 detonators, 32 grenades, and a large quantity of TNT.

Further on 'Terrorists'

NC1510160995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—Counselor Hisham Saraya, attorney general of the Higher State Security Prosecutor's Office, decided today to refer 30 terrorists to the Higher State Security Court-Emergency for trial on charges of assassinating Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Latif al-Shimi and of committing five murders or attempted murders against a number of policemen and some citizens in the Asyut governorate.

The indictment said that during the period of April to November 1993, these defendants killed Maj. Gen. al-Shimi; 'Isa Ahmad, a school headmaster in Asyut who gave information about a wanted defendant; Faltas Butrus Farid, mayor of the al-Mata'inah village in Asyut; and Abu-Bakr Salim, a police lieutenant colonel in the State Security Intelligence Service in Asyut. The prosecutor's office also accused the defendants of killing four policemen and warrant officers from the Asyut security directorate.

The office also indicted the defendants on several additional charges, including belonging to a group established in violation of the law and constitution and of joining an illegal party.

They were also accused of premeditated murder, attempted murder, and the possession of unlicensed weapons, explosives, and ammunition for use in activities that disturbed public law and order and threatened social peace and stability.

The defendants in this case are: Mustafa Mahmud 'Isa, Mamduh Abu-al-Hasan 'Abd-al-'Al, 'Abd-al-Basit Mahmud, Mahmud Kamil, Sa'id Mahmud Ahmad, 'Abd-al-'Al 'Abdallah, Badri Abu-al-Hasan, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Rahman, al-Numayri Ramadan, 'Adil 'Abd-al-Ghani, Hazim Sarhan, Tal'at Kamil 'Ibadi, Hamzawi Shakir Shahin, Hamdi Firghali Mahmud, Sayyid Hasan Abu-Zayd, Ayman Jabir Muhammad, Ahmad Mutawalli 'Isa, Hasan Muhammad Mahmud, Mahmud Dassuqi 'Abd-al-Majid, 'Abd-al- Mun'im Ahmad 'Abd-al'Al, 'Abd-al-Nasir Muhammad 'Ali, Khalifah 'Ali Mahmud, 'Abd-al-Hamid Musa Abu-'Aqrab, Abu-al-Hamd Ahmad Shihatah, Muhammd Husayn al-Khatib, Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mustafa, 'Abd-al- Hamid Mahmud 'Abd-al-Karim, Munir Mustafa 'Abd-al-Hafiz, Jamal 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Abd-al-Nasir, and Rif'at Zaydan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Circus' Atmosphere at Trial

NC1610071095 Paris AFP in English 0002 GMT 16 Oct 95

[By Laurence Chabert]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Huckstep, Egypt, Oct 16 (AFP) — Lawyers joke with the judges, defendants laugh and smile in their cage as relatives hand them biscuits and soft drinks and the electricity in this military courtroom keeps cutting off.

The military trial of 49 members of the banned Moslem Brotherhood at Huckstep army base outside Cairo has raised high political controversy in Egypt, but the courtroom itself often resembles a circus.

"I have proof that the Brotherhood is not a secret organization, that it exists and no order was made dissolving it," proclaimed the head of the lawyers union, Ahmad al-Khawajah, one of around 60 lawyers defending the Brothers.

"Then why did they deny belonging to it in interrogation if it's not secret," the presiding judge General Ahmad 'Abdallah retorted, causing a burst of laughter from the hundreds of spectators who filed into the court on Saturday [14 October].

Another lawyer protested the treatment of his client, Shaykh Sayyid 'Askar, who was barred from wearing the red and white cap of Al-Azhar, Egypt's highest Moslem institution, where he works as information head.

A ceiling fan caused a thunderous racket until it finally jammed completely, raising more laughter from the audience. Then the electricity went out, the microphones stopped working and a crying baby drowned out the judge's voice.

Throughout it all, the three judges sat unperturbed before the packed court under the slogan: "Justice is the foundation of power".

Despite the hilarity, the 49 Brothers, who include figures from professional unions and former MPs, face 25 years at hard labor on charges of "directing an illegal organization aiming to impede the rule of law and constitution."

Controversy has focused on President Husni Mubarak's decision to try them before a military tribunal which usually considers cases connected to Moslem militant unrest, even though none of the 49 are accused of planning "terrorism" or "violence."

Around 350 lawyers from all political stripes have attended the trial since it began September 16.

On Saturday, three German lawyers and representatives from the Union of Arab Lawyers and the Geneva Based International Commission of Jurists also observed.

"Until now we still have not been given a complete list of the prosecution's evidence. We don't even know exactly what the accusation is," Muhammad Salim 'Awad, a defense lawyer, said.

"You have here the elite of Egypt," he said, pointing out the doctors, engineers and university professors behind in the defendants' cage.

During a break in the session, relatives crowd around the cage, passing through snacks and drinks and shouting the latest news to the defendants, many of whom have been imprisoned since January.

This is the first time in 30 years the Brotherhood, which was created in 1929, has faced a military trial. The last ended in the execution of one of its main thinkers, Sayyid Qutb.

Banned in 1954, the group has been tolerated since the mid-1970s when it said it renounced violence in its bid to set up Islamic rule in Egypt.

But the truce with the state ended this year as police have arrested dozens of members they say have ties to Moslem "terrorists".

"This is a political trial. We have committed no crime, unless intending to enter legislative elections in November is a crime," said 'Isam al-'Aryan, the deputy secretary general of the doctors' union, arrested in January.

"Twenty-five of us planned on running," he told AFP. "We are surprised to find ourselves in this cage, where so-called terrorists have been sentenced. That kills the people's hope for change in this country."

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Hails Vote for Saddam

LD1510211895 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi] has made a statement to JANA in which he said: The Iraqi people have dealt a historic smack to the brazen face of the West and its hirelings. The West should learn and benefit from this historic lesson if it wants to correct its course.

The Iraqi people did not, however, say yes to Saddam Husayn. It said yes to death with dignity and no to capitulation. In its view, the issue here was one of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

challenge to the policies of starvation and humiliation carried out by the West to bring it under its control.

Maybe the Iraqi army was defeated but the unarmed people has won. Maybe the Iraqi leader did not manage to deal a personal blow to the West but the heroic Iraqi people managed to deal a humiliating one. And it was a very professional one indeed, as the old adage says.

So congratulations to the glorious Iraqi people for it has decided to take up the gauntlet to the challenge until death by starvation.

Editorial Assails U.S., Sanctions Law

LD1510174395 Tripoli JANA in English
1638 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Quotation marks as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 15, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY — The French foreign minister said in a press interview published in London that his country did not wish the embargo to be lifted on Libya unless the latter 'adhered' to the international community' and accepted international law norms.

JANA's editor for international affairs commented on this saying 'the Great Jamahiryah did do anything in breach of international law but it is one of the foremost countries calling for the need to respect international law and its vigorous use in the face of attempts to jeopardize it by America which is seeking to impose its control over the world and use international law for national interest. [sentence as received]

The editor added 'the Great Jamahiryah reasserted and still reasserts its continued condemnation of intervention in the internal affairs of other countries which the American administration has never ceased to practice.

The editor pointed out 'the Great Jamahiryah is one of the victims of state terrorism and the aborted American Atlantic barbaric aggression on the Great Jamahiryah is a case in point. Thus the Great Jamahiryah's rejection and condemnation of terrorism is not based merely on a theoritical stance but on its suffering from this terrorism and the results of the American terrorist aggression including destruction and murdering of innocents in Tripoli and Benghazi. History of international terrorism has never registered a precedent like the American precedent which harnessed 170 warplanes for the attack, under darkness, on the house of the leader of the revolution.

JANA's editor for international affairs reaffirmed 'the Great Jamahiryah dealt positively with all the decisions which did not encroach on its sovereignty.'

Editor Attacks Reports on Palestinians' Departure

LD1410120895 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1105 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 14 Oct — Some of the Arab and international media have recently reported unfounded information which they attributed vaguely to what they described sometimes as official and other times as unidentified sources. These reports claimed that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi would soon issue or has actually issued an order, or that he would retract this or that order whenever the media addressed the fundamental cause of the Palestinian people to return to their homeland.

The local affairs editor of the Libyan news agency JANA commented on this issue. He said that "the reports of these information organs regarding this issue reflect a complete ignorance of the administrative structure in the Great Jamahiriyah to the extent that exposes the inadequacy and lack of credibility of their reports on the Great Jamahiriyah which implements a jamhiri system where people rule themselves through people's congresses and committees, a system which has become known to the whole world."

The editor added "the link made by such media between the brother leader of the revolution and decisions taken in the great Jamahiriyah is categorically untrue because the brother leader of the revolution has no official status; he only plays the role of a revolutionary inspirer. This fact removes any credibility from such reports and reaffirms their lack of any journalistic credibility which requires people to use the right words when reporting about any regime in the world by using the correct diplomatic titles."

The editor pointed out that the decision taken by the Palestinian Arab people to return to their homeland is a correct one. He added, however, that brother leader of the revolution did call, out of his concern for the pan-Arab causes and out of his pan- Arab inspiring role, upon the masses of the Palestinian Arab people, living in the great Jamahiriyah, to seize the opportunity of the proclamation of the Palestinian state to reaffim their identity and to return to their homeland. However, once the Palestinian masses answered his call and took the decision to return became, such a decision became a Palestinian one which no-one can retract nor can he dissuade the Palestinian Arab people from re-affirming its right to return to its homeland like the rest of peoples throughout the world.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Morocco

King Hassan II Opens New Parliamentary Term

LD1310205295 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Address by King Hassan II to the House of Representatives on the opening of the new parliamentary term — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to God. Prayers and peace on our master the messenger of God, his family and companions. Dear honorable deputies: Here we are today opening the October term of your esteemed council in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. We are accustomed to addressing you every year, hoping that together we will be able to draw up guidelines for the coming months, exchange ideas, and consider the problems which concern our country. [passage omitted]

The subject of our speech, first of all, focuses on an observation; an observation which we must tackle, because it is time-sensitive. There are only five years between now and the next century. We have decided, and I am certain that our decision will be received well by you, without resorting to the idea of politico-ideological planning, to follow a primary plan from 1995 until 2000 and a five-year plan from 2000 until 2010 [as heard]. Why? Because, personally, I do not fear for the world. This is my analysis and I may be wrong. I am not fearful that a world war will take place and not even continental or regional wars. Yes, we will see small and limited wars here and there, like the ones taking place in Afghanistan and Yugoslavia, for example. However, what I fear for our world is a trade, economic, and monetary war which will shake regimes and split states. It could wipe out whatever has been built and all that has been constructed could tumble down.

The world decided last year to create the World Trade Organization which will turn trade upside down. It will also require those who implement it to carry out a coup in their mentality and their thinking.

Second, Morocco is approaching a partnership with Europe. We are about to agree an agreement that will satisfy our ambitions. However, as all agreements are subject to negotiations, in other words give and take, and neither side achieved all that it wanted. . However, we can say that, meeting four years later, Morocco has gained a great deal politically and in fisheries, agriculture, and trade a great deal. And we have a partnership for ten years or more.

My worries about such topics and problems facing us caused me to write to the director of the World Bank last June, asking him to carry out a neutral and detailed analysis of the three topics which have been the source of our daily preoccupation. These topics are: education; the necessary administrative reforms which might help us cope with the requirements of modern era; and an economic, fiscal, and trade outline for the next few years which might help us to compete with others.

As you will read in my message to him, I asked him to furnish me with a detailed and objective analysis, supported by the relevant data and comparisons with countries in the same position as us but who have managed, nonetheless, to make a quantum leap forward, to understand why we have not been able to make similar progress and a similar quantum leap.

Two weeks ago I received his reply. He sent me his full analysis of the first topic, i.e education. He also sent me the introduction to a way forward for our economic and fiscal policies, which I will be sending for you to read. The final report on this trade, economy, and fiscal point will emerge in the forthcoming days.

I have read those reports and I found a painful frankness in them, really painful figures and comparisons that will leave any conscientious person sleepless.

After a question and answer with myself I have reached the conclusion that such responsibility cannot be confined to one man, nor can it be shouldered by any government. No political party or any trade union alone can find the solution and the way to reach the objective.

Therefore, I have decided, by myself and my conscience, to put this comprehensive report at your disposal. The copies are here with me and I will hand them over to the parliament speaker to be distributed among all the groups present here and to all vocational organizations and trade unions. I want a full and comprehensive national debate and dialogue on these subjects. I hope and expect that every literate Moroccan male and female will read these reports. [passage omitted]

If the executive authority was negligent, the implementing cadres [the civil servants] were not always honest. The subject is not a question of argument such as this. Matters like this I call childish. We are facing a new generation, a new era; either we stay at the front or we roll back day by day.

For this, gentlemen, I would like you to examine the following suggestions. You will see that their success is not difficult to attain. What is important is to change what is in our minds, overcome bureaucracy, and to have courage and some imagination. These are all merits which you, your followers, supporters, and sympathizers possess. These are merits which all Moroccan people have. Contrary to what is believed, there are negatives, of course, which pressure Morocco such as the drought year, repayment of debts, especially 87 [as heard], 97 and 98 may be the years in which Morocco must pay more than other years. But apart from that our country

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is not as some think it to be. Indeed it still has enough energy and force to stand on its own feet and even to exert more efforts and have better imagination to improve its situation and rise to a higher rank.

Before I conclude this speech I want to deliver a reproach to all of you. It is a friendly reproach. I talk to you directly as today or through a royal address as stated by the Constitution. But I have not received from you any addresses, messages, or questions. I would like the problems of the state to be raised with me by this party, that party, or this union. [passage omitted]

First, I feel that I will able to close the gap between the thinker and doer without undermining the gist and content of the Constitution. Second, it can be said that we know our views from our interventions in the parliament and our articles in newspapers. However, interventions in parliament and newspaper articles are not the same as the written and studied theses which present situations, pose questions on the situations, propose solutions for the situation, and await replies to the proposals.

Again I will say to you that this is a friendly reproach. However, amity will continue as long as the friendly reproach is within the framework of the amity that is between us.

The tone of today's speech may have been unusual but you must be aware that we are in a race against time.

I would say and stress to you that it may not be easy but it will be possible to carry out these reforms in an average time span, providing that everyone is aware of them and applies themselves energetically to them.

I would very much like your newspapers to publish these reports so that they will be read by the pupils, students, merchants, businessmen, and farmers. They are of concern to them all. They are of concern to all the strata of Moroccan public opinion whom you represent here.

My hopes are pinned on God the almighty, that He will show us the right path and cause us to advance to the era of new planning with the new concept and new philosophy. As I have told you, two plans, each of five years. Be aware: May God protect you for the years are running at an unparalleled speed. [passage omitted]

Peace and God's compassion be upon you. [applause]

Ambassador Addresses UN on 'Saharan Issue'

LD1410133095 Rabat MAP in English
1304 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New York, Oct.14 (MAP) — Morocco is doing its best to reach a fair, just and definitive settlement to the Sahara issue, Moroccan permanent representative to the UNO Ahmed Senoussi said.

Senoussi, who was addressing a general debate of the UNO Special Political Issues and Decolonization Commission, underlined that Morocco, fully contributed to the success of the UN settlement process and loyally extended all material and logistical support to the various activities of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

Morocco has given a chance, more than fifteen times, to dialogue, but each time another party, which apparently keeps a great authority over the process, intervenes so that the settlement attempt fails, Senoussi added. The settlement plan, the compromise of the UN Secretary General and the Security Council resolutions provided for the identification operation with a great accuracy, he said, adding that Morocco challenges anyone to say that the Kingdom did not respect these arrangements.

Morocco registered 181,000 persons in accordance with the criteria set by the secretary general and approved by the Security Council and by the two parties, Senoussi said. He added that it is up to the identification commission to accept or reject the applications and no one can give himself the right to prevent a Sahraoui from applying for participation in the referendum.

If the identification criteria had not restricted the number of persons having the right to apply for registration, Morocco would have presented 700,000 persons who belong to the first, second and the third Sahraoui generations, Senoussi said.

Despite the commendable efforts of the MINURSO and despite Morocco's good will that was never denied, the identification operation recorded a deplorable delay that can not in any case be imputed to Morocco, the Moroccan official added.

Morocco which took the initiative to hold the referendum, is keen on staging this consultation in full impartiality and fairness, he said, adding that the kingdom will continue to assist and cooperate with the UN in this regard.

In another development, the commission turned down a hearing request submitted by the former vice-president of the identification commission Frank Ruddy to participate in the debate on the Sahara issue.

The request, that was backed by Algeria, was rejected by 38 votes against 32 and 20 abstentions.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Admits Buying Iranian Weapons

NC1510113595 Paris AFP in English 1039 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Oct 15 (AFP) — Sudan's foreign minister admitted his country's Islamic government had bought weapons from Iran but denied it was backing the spread of Moslem militants in an interview published Sunday [15 October].

"Sudan has previously received weapons deals with Iran in the past," 'Ali 'Uthman Taha told the Arab daily AL-HAYAH.

But when asked if Tehran still sold arms to Khartoum, Taha replied: "No, absolutely not. There is no military cooperation between Iran and Sudan."

"Sudan is fighting a war forced on it and so need weapons to defend the unity of its territory," Taha said, referring to the 12-year civil war in south Sudan. "That is a legitimate goal. In this matter we receive arms from sources I am not qualified to identify. But Sudan does not receive weapons as a way to threaten the security of others."

Egypt, Eritrea and other neighbors of Sudan have accused Khartoum of financing Moslem militants and other insurgents on their soil. But Taha denied Sudan was trying to export fundamentalism.

"We are for the Islamic revival, but we are not for forcing a certain philosophy on any country. We are against violence and forcing ideas on other parties," he said.

He blamed the Sudan's fallout with many of its neighbors on "a plot aiming at raising instability in the region", adding that Sudan was prepared to improve relations with Egypt and Ethiopia "whenever a serious intention is shown to move beyond (their) marginal role in this plot."

Cairo and Addis Ababa accuse Sudan of backing the June assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital. Eritrea has cut diplomatic ties with Khartoum.

Taha also said that parliamentary and presidential elections in Sudan planned for 1996 will be held "in a positive atmosphere with guarantees (of integrity) and true competition." But he ruled out allowing a multi-party vote in Sudan, where political parties were banned after the 1989 coup which brought President 'Umar al-Bashir to power.

"Our elections are based on a political system which allows different opinions but refuses campaigning with partisan or tribal politics." "The party system has failed three times to create a true democratic system because the requirements for liberal multi-party democracy are nonexistent in Sudan, as experience has shown," he said.

Minister on Relations With Egypt, Issues

EA1510171795 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 14 Oct (SUNA) — Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha has said that the Sudanese Government will not deal with political parties. He said that recent contacts have been made toward an accord with different individuals and not with parties.

In a recent interview with the AL-WATAN newspaper of Qatar, he said that the allegations about Sudan's export of and support for terrorism are false.

The minister also touched on Sudan's relations with Egypt, and the current tension between the two countries. He clarified that Sudan has not taken any hostile action against Egypt. He said Hala'ib is not reason enough for war between the two countries. He pointed out that any Egyptian military action against Sudan will lead to Egypt losing the support of the Sudanese people.

Mr. 'Ali 'Uthman Taha denied that Dr. Hasan al-Turabi [Muslim leader] has any influence on the Sudanese Government. He said he is not the actual ruler of Sudan. The accusations against him are due to his extensive international contacts. He said that al-Turabi has told the Algerian Government and opposition of his desire to mediate between them but the Algerian Government [words indistinct].

The minister described Sudan's isolation as normal. [sentence as received] Sudan's neighbors [word indistinct] in their real interests which link them with Sudan, and not to foreign support which cannot last long. He said Egypt's military options against Sudan are limited. He said that a war between the two countries [word indistinct] for political and (?regional) considerations. He also said that Egypt made false accusations against Sudan about the attempted assassination of the Egyptian president. He said that Egypt's complaints against Sudan in the meeting to resolve African disputes in Addis Ababa were not recorded in the minutes.

University Group Urges 'Uprising' Against Regime

NC1310163695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Democratic Front of Omdurman's Private University announced today that the Sudanese people have begun to mobilize and make

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

preparations to confront Hasan al-Turabi's fascist [National Islamic] Front in order to rip it out by the roots as a prelude to building a new democratic Sudan.

The Front's statement added that everyone participated in the massive demonstrations recently organized by the Sudanese people's factions represented by the student movement.

The Front referred to the steadfastness and valor of the students and the Sudanese people's masses in confronting the frenzied brutality shown by the ruling regime's militias. It noted that many students fell as martyrs in the clashes, and with their deaths the latest claims of tolerance and political freedom were proven false.

The statement adds that the National Islamic Front's [NIF] gangs stormed the Private University and, after receiving tips from NIF informants on campus, arrested students Usamah Siddiq and 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Mun'im. They also beat up innocent students and even assaulted professors and other university employees on the campus.

The statement urges students to rally around the leaders of the Democratic Student Grouping and the Democratic Front of Omdurman's Private University. It called on them to mobilize their forces to rise against NIF factions inside the university itself and also to participate in the next popular uprising, which will be protected by the students's weapons and slogans.

Al-Ummah Party To Continue Antiregime Struggle

NC1510160095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese al-Ummah Party issued a statement today, declaring that it will continue its struggle against Khartoum's ruling clique. It added that the student movement at home continues to confront and resist the gang of Hasan al-Turabi's [National Islamic] Front despite the latter's use of live ammunition and other violent means against unarmed students.

The al-Ummah Party pointed out that in the al-Bashir-al-Turabi era, Sudan has been the scene of blatant violations of human dignity and has turned into a refuge for various terrorist and criminal movements. This, the party said, subjected Sudan to regional and international condemnation and boycotts.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz: Moroccan King's Visit 'Provocative'

LD1410194295 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz described the Moroccan monarch's scheduled visit to Western Sahara this coming November as a provocative act, and that it was no less dangerous than the Green March of 1975.

Mohamed Abdelaziz appealed to the international community and the UN Security Council to work toward preventing this visit from taking place, which will lead to the danger of destroying the peace efforts in the region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Yemen

Salih Addresses Various Issues at News Conference

JN1510184795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 14 Oct 95

["Recording" of news conference held by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Sanaa on 14 October]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Ibrahim Ahmad, correspondent of the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY] I seize this opportunity to congratulate your excellency on the revolution's anniversary. I also wish our fraternal Yemeni people further progress. Your Excellency: Yemen and Syria share strong ties. How do you think can these relations be developed on the basis of Arab brotherhood and pan-Arab interests? My second question: Syria is engaged in the peace process under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to regain its rights and land on the basis of international legitimacy. What is your assessment of this?

[Salih] Yemen and Syria have fraternal and pan-Arab relations. Since the September revolution, there has been bilateral cooperation on all levels. As for the peace negotiations, we support a just and comprehensive peace. We support the restoration of all Arab rights in Palestine, Syria, and southern Lebanon. Any incomplete peace will not succeed. It must be a comprehensive peace that satisfies the Arab nation. Israel and those behind it have chosen a suitable time to negotiate with us over our land. It is negotiating with us over what it has, and not what we have. Regrettably, it is negotiating over the land in its possession. It chose a time when the Arab nation is weak. We should have begun negotiations earlier. The Arab position was then better than it is now. However, we wish the peace process success and we want it to result in the restoration of Arab land in Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Hassan al-'Udayni, correspondent of the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR and the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH] Your excellency said last August that the trial of four people among those on the list that includes 16 people would begin within 10 days. Does the delay mean that the Yemeni Government is considering reconciliation before trial or reconciliation instead of trial? The other question: Yemen still calls for ending the Iraq blockade. Is there a Yemeni position [words indistinct] Iraq's keeping Kuwaiti prisoners? What is Yemen's position on Iraq's refusal to release the Kuwaiti prisoners?

[Salih] Hassan should go and take part in the elections in Iraq and ask them about the prisoners. As for the trial of the four people, they are 16 people on the prosecution list. We said that four of them would be tried but the public prosecutor has not finalized the files. Every day, we discover another crime that is more horrible than the previous one. This is why the trial was postponed, to complete the file. Regarding Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, we have announced, as part of Yemen's foreign policy, that the brothers in Iraq should adhere to the resolutions of international legitimacy — if what is said is true — in order for the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the unfair blockade to come to an end. If the reports are true, then we wish that Iraq would adhere to international resolutions. Iraq has fulfilled a large part of these resolutions and, as I know, only a small part is left. This is because it was revealed to us [pauses]...the brothers in Iraq used to tell me that they are committed to these resolutions. However, after the defection of Husayn Kamil, we learned that there are certain things which Iraq has not fulfilled. We wish Iraq would fulfill these in order for the suffering of the Iraqi people to be alleviated or ended. These issues include the prisoners and the remaining resolutions of international legitimacy.

[Unidentified correspondent] [passage omitted] You always accuse the media of spreading rumors. I tell you that the streets were full of rumors during your visit to the United States. Some people said the purpose of your visit was not for medical treatment, but was to meet with some secessionist elements or factions. Then it was said that you concluded some deals in the interest of Yemen on gold-mining. What is the truth?

[Salih] If they say that I went to the United States to meet with secessionist elements, then that is a simple rumor. I was afraid of stronger rumors, for example, that I went there to meet with Rabin [laughter from Salih and audience]. There was a rumor that I went there to meet al-'Attas. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you still pursuing your efforts to improve and promote our country's relations with neighboring states? Can we expect another memorandum of understanding with Kuwait this time? The other part of the question: What is Yemen's position on the Middle East market? Will Yemen take part in the Amman economic summit?

[Salih] First of all, there is no reason for a memorandum of understanding with Kuwait. Yemen has no borders with Kuwait. A memorandum of understanding was signed with Saudi Arabia, because we share special ties and a border. The other part of your question: Yemen will take part in the Amman economic conference. [passage omitted]

[(?Sarini)] Karim (?Sarini), the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Sanaa. Mr. President: It is well known that the embargo imposed on Iraq has caused major damage to Iraq and painful suffering for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the Iraqi people. Don't you think it is time for an Arab initiative to stop this suffering? My second question is: Do you think that the referendum in Iraq, which will be held tomorrow [15 October], is a response to the calls to intervene in Iraq's domestic affairs?

[Salih] In fact, we speak publicly and frankly. Yemen's position is clear. We told all the brothers and friends, both publicly and privately, that the suffering imposed on the Iraqi Arab people must be lifted. If certain mistakes were made, the people had nothing to do with them. We hear Arab and foreign voices that sympathize with the Iraqi people and support an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people. As for the referendum, it is a domestic affair that concerns Iraq. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] I was astonished to hear the recent statements by his highness the Kuwaiti heir apparent. I am concerned about this issue, because I was one of the first people to defend Kuwait in an official newspaper. However, he is still repeating the accusations against Yemen, which is part of what he calls the anti-Kuwait countries. Shall we submit to a conflict of bitterness in which we have no part? We wish to know from your excellency the government's position on these statements, which point the finger of accusations against Yemen.

[Salih] Yemen does not care. Yemen is fully innocent, and will not ask for forgiveness from anyone. Yemen was not involved, directly or indirectly, in any case or in any domestic affair of any Arab country. We are proud of this. God willing, the brothers will reconsider their position. Maybe this was a reaction to [Yemeni Foreign Minister] Dr. al-Iryani's statements, which were misinterpreted. [passage omitted]

Denies Sheltering 'Extremist' Forces

NC1410123695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sanaa, 14 Oct (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has denied that Yemen shelters any extremist forces in its territories. He affirmed that any groups dealing with extremism and terrorism under any slogan or name will be destroyed.

Answering a question by the MENA correspondent in Sanaa, he said the problem began during the Yemeni unity's transitional period when differences between some leaders enabled extremist forces to enter the country. He added: We are now in the process of returning these forces to their countries. We will not accept their presence among us under any circumstances. The Yemeni president made these remarks at a meeting today with several newspaper and news agency correspondents in Yemen.

The president was asked about the postponement of the Higher Egyptian-Yemeni Committee's meeting, which was supposed to be held on 15 September. He said the reason was that at the last moment Yemen proposed that a technical delegation be sent to Cairo to prepare for the meeting to alleviate the burden on the two countries' prime ministers because the committee's agenda was full of topics, agreements, and joint protocols.

He asserted that a security agreement between Cairo and Sanaa will finally be signed during the joint committee's meetings after both countries have approved its draft plan. [passage omitted]

Denies Government Reshuffle

JN1410190395 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On the 32d anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, held a news conference at the Republican Palace in Sanaa this morning. [passage omitted]

At the news conference, the president spoke about relations with sisterly countries in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf. He said Yemeni-Saudi relations are strategic despite attempts by some forces to distort and weaken them. [passage omitted]

The president asserted that there are no extremist forces in Yemen. If, however, such forces were to exist, then Yemen would take a firm stand toward them. This is based on the fact that Yemen does not harbor any extremist. He added that some extremist forces did take advantage of the transitional period, which was characterized by oneupmanship. These forces managed to enter the country. However, the competent agencies returned these forces to their countries. He added that an Algerian suspect will be put on trial, along with five others who are held on charges of involvement in the recent incidents in al-Dali' in Yemen. Those people will be given a fair trail for their crimes.

The president denied any government reshuffle, and wished the government success in implementing the remaining stages of financial and administrative reform. He said that a delegation from Yemen is currently holding talks in Washington with the World Bank regarding the completion of the economic reform program. He added that Yemen accepts the World Bank policies within the context of Yemen's higher interests and private affairs.

The president said he will leave within hours for the winter capital, Aden, along with cabinet members. The

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

government will conduct its affairs from Aden, as it was declared a winter capital last year.

The president addressed other domestic, Arab, and foreign issues. The news conference was attended by Information Minister Ahmad 'Abd- al-Rahman al-Akwa'.

Compares GPC, YRG

JN1410143995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, held a news conference on the 32nd anniversary of the glorious 14 October revolution at the Republican Palace this morning. The news conference was attended by representatives of official, private, and party mass media, Sanaa-based representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies and newspapers, and chiefs of staff of newspapers in sisterly Saudi Arabia.

Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that the Yemeni revolution made many achievements, chief among which was reuniting the homeland [words indistinct] in addition to entrenching political pluralism and the freedom of the press, proceeding along the democratic path, building the armed forces and security forces, safeguarding Yemeni unity, and combating illiteracy and expanding education on all levels.

The brother president said there are common denominators between the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] that were embodied during the battle for defending unity and constitutional legitimacy. He said there is no difference whatever between the GPC and the YRG. The president said our country welcomes national, Arab, and foreign investments in light of the facilities provided by the Investment Law to all investors without discrimination. In this regard, he noted many foreign companies applied for investment in the free zone in Aden.

Regarding relations with sisterly countries in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, the president said that Yemeni-Saudi relations are [word indistinct] despite the attempts by some countries to distort and weaken these relations. In this regard, he said the Yemeni-Saudi summit meeting in Jeddah was useful, helped improve relations, and reflected positively on trade, which has recently witnessed an upswing. He said the work of the joint committees is proceeding well and in accordance with what was agreed on by the leaders of the two countries.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih tackled a host of other Arab domestic, Arab, and international issues. The news conference was attended by Minister of Information 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa'.

On 'Misunderstood' Kuwait Statement

LD1410162095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1408 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] San'a, 14 Oct — Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today said that his foreign minister's recent statement on Kuwait "was misunderstood."

He told a news conference that his country "would wish for relations with Kuwait to return to their former state." He addressed the participants in the news conference saying: "We must keep away from agitation with regard to Yemeni-Kuwaiti relations."

The Yemeni president also said that his country's stance regarding Iraq was clear. He added "Iraq must comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy concerning the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war."

Press reports have quoted Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani as saying that his country "will not apologize to Kuwait," although he had indicated that there had been a mistake in the Yemeni stance regarding the crisis of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in 1990.

In reply to a question on that issue, Yemeni President Salih said "there has been a misunderstanding regarding the foreign minister's statement concerning the brother Kuwaitis."

The Yemeni president added: "Our relations with Kuwait are fraternal and excellent ... [agency ellipses] However there is mist that is prevailing in some people's hearts in Yemen and Kuwait; God willing, the mist will disappear."

It is worth noting that in reply to a question at a news conference last Monday [9 October] on Kuwait's stance vis-a-vis the states that supported Iraq in 1990, Shaykh Sa'id al-'Abdallah al- Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, confirmed the firmness of that stance in the light of a specific government strategy.

The strategy dictates the need for those states [that supported Iraq] to express sincere and clear stances, which are not subject to interpretations, on demanding that Iraq must fully implement the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the release of Kuwaiti prisoners of war.

In another development, the Yemeni president denied that there were "any extremist forces" in his country. However, he said that foreign extremist forces had

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

entered the country after the declaration of Yemeni unity and exploited the situation that prevailed then, but procedures were in motion to return them to their home countries.

Regarding the dispute between the two ruling coalition parties in the country, ['Ali 'Abdallah] Salih, the leader of one of these two parties [the General People's Congress], said: "There is no dispute between the General People's Congress and the Yemeni Alliance for Reform parties." He said that the armed clash in the region of Shar'ab recently was just a dispute between two people.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saddam Wins Referendum on Post of President

INA Reports Start of Voting

JN1510070695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA) — Millions of citizens have been heading to 1,114 polling centers throughout Iraq since 0800 today to participate in the public referendum on the post of president of the republic. Crowds of eligible voters over 18 years of age have been heading to ballot centers.

Ballot boxes were opened minutes before the beginning of the referendum to make sure that they were intact and empty of any cards. They were closed again in front of the supervising committees and citizens.

This is the first time that a referendum on the post of president of the republic has been held since the declaration of the Republic of Iraq and the abolition of monarchy rule after the 14 July 1958 revolution.

Hundreds of journalists and members of Arab and foreign parliamentary delegations are observing the popular democratic way in which the referendum is being held. The referendum has turned into a grand festival in which all Iraqis are participating. The guests have visited the polling centers and observed the referendum process and the democratic atmosphere surrounding it. This is a crucial turn from the phase of revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy.

Polling centers and the areas surrounding them throughout Iraq have been packed with voters and their families since the first minute of the voting process. They came to express their love for leader Saddam Husayn and their adherence to his leadership, which is the symbol of national unity and unified Iraq. The centers and streets surrounding them, as well as other streets and public squares and the facades of residential buildings and shops, are decorated with portraits of leader Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi flag, and banners saying: "Yes, yes, yes to Saddam Husayn; yes, yes, to democracy; yes, yes, to one Iraq."

Saddam's Wife, Daughter Cast Votes

JN1510152195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn's wife and his daughter Hala Saddam Husayn cast their votes at the polling center of 'Utbah Bin-Ghazwan School in the ninth referendum area of Baghdad.

Vice President Votes at Amman Embassy

JN1510154295 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1505 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 15 Oct (INA)—Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, member of the [Iraqi] Revolution Command Council [RCC] and vice president, visited the Iraqi Embassy in Amman today to participate in the general referendum to elect leader Saddam Husayn president of the Republic of Iraq.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Amman, Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf said that the day of the general referendum to elect President Saddam Husayn is a great Iraqi occasion in which all Iraqis participate to reiterate to the whole world that Saddam Husayn is the leader of Iraq and the builder of its glorious awakening.

He added that President Saddam Husayn led Iraq to the peak of glory, and great achievements were attained under his historic leadership. He said: We say yes to Saddam Husayn because he is the pride and dignity of Iraq, and because he is the leader of Iraq toward the shores of glory, safety, pride, and dignity.

Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president, arrived in Amman en route to New York.

Barzan al-Tikriti Pledges Loyalty

JN1510192895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Esteemed leader President Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq:

Today, Iraqis are undertaking a democratic exercise Iraq has not experienced for more than 35 years, in terms of holding a direct popular referendum on the post of president. The importance of this step lies in the fact that it is taking place under the current circumstances our dear Iraq is facing in terms of the serious threats. These threats are designed to undermine our freedom to have independent decisionmaking, and to harm our national unity.

As a slogan designed to achieve a noble objective, the referendum thus indicates that other important steps will be taken in a manner that will prevent the enemies from harming our Iraq, no matter how long it may take, through the resolve shown by the good sons of this deeply rooted homeland.

This referendum will decisively confirm that the lofty Iraqi people have freely chosen to stand behind your leadership, because they know that you love them well,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and also because of your known persistent struggle to safeguard Iraq's independence and sovereignty, and entrench Iraq's national unity against all attempts at interference and at imposing hegemony and subservience.

Mr. President of the Republic: In my name, and on behalf of the staff of Iraq's UN representation in Geneva, who are physically away from the homeland but actually close to it through our souls and sentiments, we are honored to join our dear people on this great day and to say yes to Saddam Husayn for president of the Republic.

On this occasion, we pledge to you that we will continue to stand behind your leadership and make every possible effort to defend the lofty homeland and its interests in a way that will achieve the objective we seek; namely, lifting the unjust blockade imposed on the dear Iraqi people, so they will assume the status they deserve on all levels, thus enhancing their vital role on the Arab and international levels under your wise leadership.

We all have confidence and faith that you, as we have always known, will lead our steadfast and lofty people to safety, happiness, peace, and stability after they—under your leadership and through their jihad and that of yours—circumvent all difficulties and suffering that were dictated by circumstances and planned by the evil ones in an attempt to achieve their malicious and selfish objectives by using the ugliest weapon in history—namely, starving the Iraqi people in an attempt to subdue them and undermine their will.

However, it is impossible for the evil ones to harm this steadfast and deeply rooted people, who have confirmed their genuine character, independence, faithfulness, and pride throughout history regardless of pressures, difficulties, and conspiracies.

In conclusion, we invoke God Almighty to guide your steps for the service and happiness of this generous and patient people who deserve much love and admiration. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Barzan al-Tikriti, Iraq's permanent representative at the United Nations in Geneva

[Dated] 15 October 1995

'Aziz Receives Guest Delegations

JN1410164595 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received Roberto Formiguni, Italian parliamentarian and governor of the Province of Lombardy in northern Italy [name and title as received], who is currently visiting Iraq on the occasion of the general popular referendum.

The talks addressed Italian-Iraqi ties and the role Italy could play in bringing about a revocation of the unfair Iraq sanctions, in its capacity as a UN Security Council member.

Formiguni is accompanied by Italian Parliamentarian Debitro [name as received].

Tariq 'Aziz also received today Dr. Carmen Rodriguez, member of the ruling party in Spain, who is visiting Iraq on the occasion of the general popular referendum.

The talks addressed Iraqi-Spanish ties and ways of promote them in the interests of the two friendly countries.

Foreign News Teams Arrive

JN1410145695 Baghdad INA in English 1239 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 14, INA — Arab and foreign newsmen, reporters and correspondents of principal dailies, magazines, TV networks and news agencies are still pouring into Baghdad to cover and see for themselves the voting process on the public referendum on President Saddam Husayn's nomination for presidency scheduled for tomorrow.

The number of Arab and foreign reporters who will cover the event is expected to reach 600.

To facilitate the work of the visiting reporters, the Ministry of Information and Culture has been mobilized to ensure transportation and communications services for its guests. Moreover, the ministry's Press Center will offer all the necessary services for the press delegations, in different languages.

The Press Center issued instructions to organize the work of the visiting press delegations announcing that Arab and foreign journalists are free to move among polling centers in Baghdad and the provinces, and that no restrictions will be placed on allowing journalists to interview people, contract with interpreters or hire cars.

At the same time, the center announced readiness to offer interpretation and transportation services for journalists and correspondents who want to tour polling centers inside and outside Baghdad on the condition that journalists notify the center a day ahead to give the center time to ensure transportation and interpretation services.

As for journalists who want to visit Mosul or al-Basrah and nearby provinces, the center made it clear that they have to give notice by Friday, October 13, to make

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

necessary arrangements and book in hotels there, setting Saturday, October 14 as the date for visit to the said provinces.

Among reporters and delegations who arrived in Baghdad during the past few days are head of the Mauritanian Journalists Union Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahman, Austrian press delegation comprising correspondents of profile and news magazines and STANDARD DAILY, Turkish press delegation comprising correspondent of MILLIYET and SABAH dailies, editor of AL-FAIR which is published in France Ahmad Fayiz al-Mur'ibi and correspondent of AGENTSTVO PECHATI NOVOSTI (APN).

Other press delegations who have already arrived here are correspondent of agencies EFE's (Spain) bureau in Moscow, chief reporter of the German DER SPIEGEL daily, head of the correspondents society in Egypt, correspondents of SYGMA NEWS AGENCY, the British INDEPENDENT daily, delegation of Euro News TV Network comprising Yusuf al-Alfi, Philip Jeep, Anthony Brox, Kenneth Sukling and Anthony Robinson and Jonathan Rockman from the British GUARDIAN daily and a four-person delegation of the Japanese TV-Asahi (Televi Asahi-Asahi National Broadcasting Co. Ltd).

On Monday, a delegation of the German TV RRD comprising Mahmud Ibrahim, 'Ubaydah 'Abd-al-Salam, Ahmad Khalifah 'Abd-al-'Aziz, and 'Ubayd Khalil arrived in Baghdad to cover the voting process on October 15.

Two reporters from THE DAILY EXPRESS, one from the British OBSERVER daily, one from the Swedish TV Channel 2, a British TV photographer, and an American TV producer also arrived here on Monday.

Also on Monday, Chairman of the Friendship Across Frontiers Riyad al-Tahir and his wife Shermin al-Tahir, the British journalist S. Roberts and a correspondent of Dutch Radio arrived in Baghdad.

In another development, IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) reported on Sunday that some 35 foreign press missions representing TV networks, news agencies and photographers, correspondents of dailies and magazines arrived in Baghdad to cover the public referendum on President Saddam Husayn's nomination for presidency.

In a statement to INA on Sunday, head of the Press Center of the Ministry of Information and Culture Faris Faraj Qasirah said 35 press delegations representing 13 TV networks, five news agencies and 15 dailies and magazines have already prepared and installed necessary devices and equipment while their correspondents started to interview people and officials and tour parts of Baghdad to get acquainted with the preparations for the referendum day.

The TV networks are British REUTER and WTN, the American AP (ASSOCIATED PRESS) and CBS (Columbia Broadcasting System Inc.), the Swedish and Belgium TV networks, the Japanese Asahi and N.H.K (Nippon Hose Kyokai- Japan Broadcasting Corporation), and the Erd and the Euro news networks which is a main TV networks connecting 36 TV networks in Europe, Mr. Qasirah said.

Mr. Qasirah added that international news agencies are REUTER, Agence France Press (AFP), the Russian news agency NOVOSTI, Dutch and Spanish news agencies in addition to the American agency of photography SAVA and the French SYGMA and correspondents of Swedish, Swiss, and Dutch broadcasting stations, and the British INDEPENDENT, THE GUARDIAN, THE DAILY EXPRESS, THE OBSERVER, THE DAILY NEWS and the SUNDAY TIMES, the Turkish MILLIYET and SABAH dailies, the American Dallas Morning News, the Austrian STANDARD DAILY, the Danish POLITIKEN daily, the German DER SPIEGEL, magazine and the Austrian news and profile magazines.

According to Mr. Qasirah, the ministry has been mobilized to ensure communications services for its guests to facilitate the dispatch of news and prepared modern and up-to-date communications devices, indicating that some journalists have brought special transmission devices and equipment and the Press Center ensured 10 direct international telephone lines and facsimile services in cooperation with Post and Telecommunications Department.

Mr. Qasirah added that the ministry has taken all the appropriate measures and prepared necessary requirements to facilitate the work of its guests in Baghdad and the provinces, indicating that visiting journalists will have the freedom to visit any Iraqi villages or city and write about the voting process without censorship or interfering from Iraqi authorities.

According to recent reports, until Thursday the number of news agencies and TV networks and dailies and magazines who arrived in Baghdad to cover the voting process reached some 110 ones.

Among press delegations which arrived on Wednesday are delegations of BRT (Belgische Radio en Televisel), German TV ZDF (Zweites Deutsches Fernsehen), and BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation).

Also arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday were correspondents of Radio Monte Carlo Sa'd al-Mas'udi, Naji al-Hazib, Susan Sheek, Tariq Na'im from WTN, correspondent of Italian news agency in Cyprus, correspon-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

dent of Indonesian national news agency Haider Abdullah, reporter of SUARA MERDEKA daily, reporter of the Jordanian AL-RA'Y.

Reporters Reportedly Unrestricted

JN1210115695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1855 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Oct (INA) — The Press Center of the Ministry of Culture and Information informed Arab and foreign correspondents and journalists in Baghdad to cover the general popular referendum on the post of president to be held on 15 October that there are no restrictions on the performance of their tasks.

In a circular issued today and circulated among Arab and foreign correspondents and journalists, the Press Center added that they can tour and visit referendum centers, meet citizens, conclude contracts with translators, and rent cars without any restrictions, and that they do not need any approvals or permits to do so.

The center expressed its readiness to offer its transportation and translation services for any correspondent who wishes to visit referendum centers inside or outside Baghdad provided that correspondents make such requests to the center 24 hours in advance so that transportation and translators or escorts can be made available to them.

The correspondents and journalists who wish to visit the cities of Mosul and al-Basrah and neighboring governorates must inform the center of their wishes by 13 October so that it may make travel and hotel arrangements. Travel to the two cities will be on 14 October, and the return from there will be on 16 October.

Arab and foreign journalists have continued to pour into Iraq to cover the general popular referendum. Some 150 out of 600 journalists and media persons invited have already arrived for this purpose.

Invitations have been extended to major Arab and foreign media organizations, including press, television, radio, and news agency organizations, to cover this grand democratic practice.

Telephone, Telex, Fax Lines Extended

JN1210153995 Baghdad INA in English
1350 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 12, INA— Ministry of Transport and Communications has opened in the Press Center in the Ministry of Culture and Information a center for the international telephone services to present services to the informational delegations which arrived in Baghdad to cover the general referendum operation due to be carried out in Iraq on October 15.

During a meeting with the new center staff on Thursday, Minister of Transport and Communications Ahmad Murtada Ahmad called upon them to present the best services for the informational delegations and to meet their demands as fast as they could and during 24 hours a day.

Director of Baghdad Communications Center told INA that ten international lines for communications between Iraq and the whole world states have been allocated. Three telex lines and two fax others have also been allocated for this reason, and we can double these lines were necessary, he added.

These services are being presented from Thursday morning and will last till the departure of these informational delegations, the Baghdad Center director said, adding that the Ministry of Transport and Communications is discussing to keep putting these services in action all over the year.

Results To Be Announced 'As They Appear'

JN1410151395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1440 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The Higher Committee charged with supervising the general popular referendum on the post of president has decided to announce the results of the referendum as they appear once the vote-counting process is completed.

This was announced during a meeting the committee held today under 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Higher Committee. During the meeting, the conferees evaluated the final preparations made by supervisory committees in referendum constituencies.

Ministry Official on Announcing Results

JN1510151995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1316 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Nuri Najm al-Marsumi, under secretary of the Culture and Information Ministry, has said that the results of the general popular referendum on the post of president will be announced after receiving the results of vote counting from all governorates of the country through the Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum.

In a statement today, he added that the Higher Commission will receive the results from the constituencies in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Baghdad and other governorates and announce them directly through the television and radio network in front of the foreign correspondents and journalists.

He said the results of the referendum will be announced successively depending on ending the vote-counting at the center in Baghdad and other governorates as of 2130 [1830 GMT] today, and perhaps until the morning.

He pointed out that the referendum is being held in a calm and very normal atmosphere. No incidents, even simple ones, have thus far been reported, and there is a very wide popular participation in voting, he said.

Al-Marsumi added that 500 Arab and foreign journalists and technicians arrived in Baghdad and are now in various Iraqi governorates to cover the referendum. They include an Iranian delegation comprising 11 journalists who arrived in Baghdad yesterday. Party and parliamentary personalities as well as representatives of friendship and peace organizations from various states also arrived in Baghdad, he said.

RCC's Ibrahim Chairs Results Meeting

JN1510174395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1707 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ladies and gentlemen: We have just received the following report on the referendum:

'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman and chairman of the Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum for the post of president of the republic, this evening chaired a Commission meeting.

The attendees discussed the final preparations to receive the results of vote-counting from the polling places throughout Iraq.

A short while ago, ballot boxes were closed in 1,664 [as heard] polling places all over Iraq after they were crowded all day long with millions of Iraqis, who recorded in history: Yes to Leader Saddam Husayn, as they participated in the general referendum for the post of the Republic of Iraq president, which is being held in Iraq for the first time in 37 years.

These centers, opened in Baghdad and in all Iraqi towns, from the south to the north, witnessed one of the most glorious days in Iraqi modern history. Future generations will remember the biggest yes the Iraqis said to their beloved leader Saddam Husayn. This yes will be in parallel to the biggest no the leader has said to all enemies of the homeland and people — including the imperialists, the Zionists, and their agents.

Ibrahim Announces Saddam's Victory

JN1610100095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 0733 GMT 16 Oct 95

[Final statement issued by the Higher Commission charged with supervising the referendum on the post of president, read by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice president and chairman of the higher commission, at the Hall of the Conferences Palace in Baghdad—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And say: Truth has now arrived, and falsehood perished: For falsehood is by its nature bound to perish. [Koranic verse]

Great Iraqi people, masses of our glorious Arab nation, and free and honest people in all parts of the world, this is another new immortal day of Arabism and Islam during which the great Iraqi people and command record a pioneering and vanguard stand of the unique and firm stands of confrontation of challenges and hardships and of triumphing over the forces of evil, darkness, deception, and ill intentions. This is a day not like the others. It is an historical and immortal day and it has become so because the Iraqis have wrested it with their free will and with their deeply-rooted faith in God, the homeland, and the nation, and with their high confidence in themselves. They crowned this day with their allegiance to their symbol, their source of pride and their leader, by acclaiming him as the leader of the people and nation with meanings that tell of loyalty and sincerity to principles and history and an understanding of [words indistinct] behind their great leader, Prophet Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, may God's peace and mercy be upon him. They scored feats with him. They exterminated their unjust, skeptical, and infidel enemies. The steadfast and patient Iraqi people represent the pledge of allegiance made by the first Muslims to their noble leader, Arab prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and mercy be upon him. They fought with him people of all colors and fulfilled what they had pledged to God. Their pledge of allegiance in terms of loyalty and sincerity was such as to be viewed as a pledge of allegiance to God Almighty. Regarding this pledge of allegiance, God Almighty says: Those who plight their fealty to thee do no less than plight their fealty to God: The Hand of God is over their hands. [Koranic verse]

Glorious Iraqis, your pledge today is an extension of that pledge of allegiance in terms of sincerity and loyalty, and all other meanings. O mujahidin, God's hands are over your hands in support and strength so that we all can pursue the lofty jihad march behind our great

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

leader to achieve our nation's noble objectives of unity, freedom, and socialism.

Faithful people of Iraq, people of our glorious Arab nation, free peoples of the world: in embodiment of the phase of transition from revolutionary legitimacy — filled with all the deep constitutional and democratic meanings throughout the past 27 years of the age of the revolution — to the developed and profound constitutional legitimacy, the RCC issued Resolution No. 85 of 1995, which amended the constitution. According to this resolution, a nomination of the president was to be carried out through a general popular referendum. In implementation of this, the RCC issued the referendum law and the nomination was put before the National Assembly for voting. The representatives of the people expressed remarkable and blessed allegiance to leader President Saddam Husayn as president of the republic [applause]. By doing so, they emphasized against the backdrop of glorious history that the Arabs choose their leader in a special allegiance ceremony, concluded by responsible and influential people. They also showed that the Arabs are used to carrying out a general allegiance at mosques, which commits the nation to showing obedience, affection, and loyalty to its leader.

This expression of allegiance is embodied in Arab Iraq today in the spirit of a referendum carried out with all the features of the glorious past, represented by consultations and honest choice; with all meanings of political practices embodied in the revolutionary practices; and the freedom of choosing the policy toward self-determination.

All polling centers witnessed the nomination of leader Saddam Husayn as president of the republic. With an absolute will guaranteed by the constitution and law as well as a freedom secured by the bodies entrusted with supervising the referendum, all the people expressed their stand toward the nominee who is president of the republic.

Leader President Saddam Husayn has won [applause] with 99.96 percent from a total number of 8,357,560 voters. Our great people constituted 99.467 percent of those who have the right to vote and who totalled 8,402,321.

The number of those who cast a yes vote totaled 8,348,700. It was neither unexpected nor strange that this unique democratic practice at this critical point, which comes in the context of the revolution's broad experience and is in harmony with its practices since the inception of the glorious 17-30 July revolution, should enjoy such a broad turnout and splendid success and demonstrate such great distinction. This practice surpasses the highest forms of democracy in the countries hostile to Iraq that falsely questioned the constitutionality of its regime and its people's right to choose their own government as well as their value system.

O brothers and friends inside and outside the homeland: This great qualitative leap in the march of the rich and unique experience will open up new horizons for the future of Iraq and its mujahid people so they may proceed with the implementation of the leadership's course and programs, which are part and parcel of its pioneering democratic experience.

O great people; O people of the two immortal rivers; O people of civilizations; O people of messages: Now, you have the right [applause] to show jubilation, pride, and loftiness, because you have chosen to vindicate your faithful and peaceful psyches, to uphold your sublime principles, to champion your noble values, and to rehabilitate your glorious past; and also because you have chosen to enhance your dynamic present, and opened the doors to a bright and shining future through this splendid popular referendum, in which you exercised a principled national, pan-Arab, and political right, upon which the nation, the leadership, and the ruler pin great hopes, for it will facilitate the crossing to safe shores, God willing.

O great people: You have the right to show pride before the entire mankind, because you have made your choice, using your well-known awareness, faith, courage, and knowledge of your historical heritage in terms of warmth, generosity, and nobility. You have chosen the leader who embodies your aspirations and ambitions. You have chosen the leader who epitomizes your goals and wishes regarding the creation of a free, independent, and resurgent Iraq. Moreover, you have chosen the historic leader president, who enjoys the leadership traits [applause] and requirements laid down by our good forefathers in terms of protecting the faith, building the country, protecting funds and people, securing the honor of women, recruiting troops and equipping them [to face] [words indistinct] [applause], watching over the people's welfare, safeguarding the trust, and disregarding indulgence in entertainment, trade, or [words indistinct]. These are the traits destined for leaders by God Almighty, as spelled out in the instructions of our great forefathers and epitomized in their march. All these traits are part of the character of Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, as manifested in the reconstruction endeavor as well as the struggle and jihad he has waged in defense of the homeland and the nation and to ward off evil and aggression. It is a faithful and honest jihad for which he has been known. Likewise, it is a great responsibility

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

with which he has been honored to undertake with great audacity, wisdom, valor, and selflessness.

Noble, loyal, steadfast, militant, and patient people, you chose today a history replete with heroism and victories. You have chosen a brilliant star in the sky of the homeland and the nation. You chose someone who has inexhaustible resources and vigor. You evoked the spirit of history and triumphed over evil. You cast away all doubts. You chose the man who shouldered the heaviest burden, who is the highest placed, the most loyal, the most wise, and the most capable of enforcing right and driving away evil, and the bravest man in the days of hardship.

Great people of Iraq, you have supported our glorious process, our great history and sublime principles, and our firm legitimate right to a free and dignified life in the most difficult circumstances our country and nation have experienced throughout their protracted history, circumstances represented in fighting, starvation, and intimidation to exterminate us as a people and nation.

You have told the world at large that we are a unique and outstanding manifestation in terms of loyalty, freedom, jihad, ability, and creativity. All this has been attained when you chose the faithful and struggler leader President as president and leader of great Iraq, and as a leader of the nation's jihad march against its enemies and for the sake of its brilliant future.

Brother Iraqis, God Almighty has honored our generation because it was a witness to such a stand and because our generation has put down on record with its jihad, work, and its sweat this unique democratic event. Our generation is loved because it has chosen a leader who loves his people and nation and whose people and nation love him as a leader whom God has granted victory and whom He has placed in the highest rank among the nations of this world and whom He has tasked him with the job of confronting evil wherever it may be and of saying yes to right wherever right exists.

The Higher Commission which supervises the Referendum on the post of president of the republic while announcing, with God's permission, the victory of leader struggler President Saddam Husayn [applause] congratulates you, great Iraqis, on this great victory. Congratulations to you, O free Arabs, on the victory of your leader, struggler President Saddam Husayn and for his assuming this constitutional post. We bring you these glad tidings to which all the faithful stand witness. These glad tidings are awaited by those who love us and are feared by the skeptics and the rancorous.

Congratulations to the nation for their loud chanting of yes, yes to leader President Saddam Husayn. This confirms that the Iraqi still abides by the legacy of the brilliant history of Babylon, Assyria, Baghdad, Nineveh, and Sumer, and that on its blessed land the Arab Islamic culture became resplendent, providing the world will all kinds of knowledge. The Iraqi also is of a genuine mettle which is not changed by ill winds or hardships. On the contrary, hardships make it more solid. Yes, yes to the leader who was given a pledge of allegiance by the people, who has proven himself on the battlefield and on the fields of construction and creativity, and who was also chosen by the masses to lead their revolution 27 years ago because he is part of them and because they are from him. Let us raise our voices loud in praising him, and let the people chant his name for the thousandth time. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Say: O God! Lord of power and rule, thou givest power to whom thou pleasest, and thou strippest power from whom thou pleasest: Thou enduest with honor whom thou pleasest and thou bringest low whom thou pleasest: In thy hand is all good. Verily, over all things thou hast power. [Koranic verse]

May God's peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Public Holiday To Commemorate Referendum

JN1510182395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1744 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear viewers: Amid the festive, joyous atmosphere prevailing throughout our beloved Iraq, and on this immortal occasion, the referendum day, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has learned that it has been decided to declare tomorrow, Monday, 16 October 1995, corresponding to 22 Jumada al-Awwal 1416 hegira, a public holiday. This decision was made in view of the efforts of the people supervising the referendum for the post of the Republic of Iraq president, and by the voters who waited a long time to cast their votes in the polling places. The decision was also made in order to celebrate this immortal day in the life of our people, and the deep feelings of commitment displayed by the Iraqis toward their right to cast their votes in the general referendum.

Preparations for Referendum Detailed

JN1410131595 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 14, INA—As the date of presidential referendum gets closer, October 15, Iraqis are excited. School children have been over the last few days celebrating the day and sing and perform colourful activities in praise of President Saddam Husayn, BAGHDAD OBSERVER said today.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In Bilat al-Shuhada' primary school in Baghdad special celebrations were held on the public referendum on the nomination of president Saddam Husayn. The school boys and girls sing song in praise of the president and his achievement for Iraq.

Meanwhile, scores of polling centres are set up but most such centres are however located in government buildings mostly schools. Lists including the names of eligible voters are hanged on the outside walls of the centres of voters to check their names before entering the hall for voting in the 18-million nation's first presidential referendum ever.

At a centre in Baghdad's al-A'zamiyah district, scores of men and chadour-wearing Iraqi women checking the names of their family.

"What about my eighteen-year-old daughter, Widad? I don't see her name here", she asked an official at the centre hall.

'Abd-al-Razzaq, told her that, according to the census book of her daughter, she will be eighteen only on December 4, and hence she is not now eligible for voting. According to the elections law, only eighteen-year aged Iraqis, men and women, are liable for voting. Official estimates here put the total number of voters at 7.5 million, this of course excludes the three northern provinces of Iraqi Kurdistan, Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk which are controlled by rebel Kurdish forces and protected by an air umbrella of western allies.

School buildings which have changed into polling centres are the most common in the capital Baghdad. The list of names are hanged on the blackboards at yards of the schools while classrooms have been shifted into voting cabins where the voter "feels free and private to vote without anybody there" Mr 'Abd-al-Razzaq said. I could not detect any sort of arrangement where this "privacy" could be infringed at the al-A'zamiyah centre.

The voter, according to the official, arrives at the polling centre with his identity card. He will be received by an official which checks the name with the list at the centre and a form given to him a week before the election which includes the residential area details, like house number and street and the name of the family chief. After checking the form and the identity of the voter, he will be allowed to get a voting card with "yes and no squares on, reading, do you elect Saddam Husayn as president of the republic". Then the voter enters into one of the classrooms to write down his choice and drop it into the polling box.

New Medal for Republic President Instituted

JN1510175095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2145 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued a decree instituting a medal called the al-Rafidayn [Mesopotamia] Medal to be worn by the president of the republic as soon as he assumes his constitutional responsibilities for the first time. Following is the text of the RCC decree:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
The Republic of Iraq,
In the name of the people,
The RCC,
Decree No. 110,
Date of decree: 17 Jumada al-Awwal 1416 hegira, corresponding to 11 October 1995,

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A, Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided to issue the following law:

Law amending the al-Rafidayn Medal Law No. 1 of 1968.

Article One: The text of Article One of al-Rafidayn Medal Law No. 1 of 1968 shall be annulled and replaced by the following:

Article One: A medal called the al-Rafidayn Medal shall be instituted, and shall be worn by the president of the republic as soon as he assumes his constitutional powers for the first time.

Article Two: This law shall go into effect as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Law No. 13 Organizing Public Referendum Amended

JN1210213295 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Sep 95 pp 1,2

[Revolution Command Council, RCC, Law No. 15 of 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

Republic of Iraq

In the name of the people

Revolution Command Council Decree No. 98 dated 24 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 hegira, corresponding to 19 September 1995.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the constitution, the Revolution Command Council issues the following Law No. 15 of 1995: Law amending Law No. 13 of 1995 organizing the public referendum.

Article 1: Article 3 of Law No. 13 of 1995 organizing the public referendum is hereby canceled and replaced by the following:

Article 3: A commission to be called the Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum shall be formed under the chairmanship of the vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and with the membership of: The speaker of the National Assembly, the minister of interior, the minister of justice, the president of the Court of Cassation, the speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, and representative of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front. The commission shall henceforth be referred to as the Higher Commission.

Article 2: This law shall be implemented as the date of its issuance.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn

Justificative reasons: This law was enacted to ensure wider representation of the nationalist and patriotic forces.

It will be recalled that Article 3 of Law No. 13 of 1995 organizing the public referendum provides for the formation of a commission to be called the Higher Commission Supervising the Referendum under the chairmanship of the vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and with the membership of the speaker of the National Assembly, the minister of interior, the minister of justice, and the president of the Court of Cassation, to be referred to henceforth as the Higher Commission.

Opposition Reacts to Presidential Referendum

Parties Urge Boycott of Elections

NC1410193095 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Oct 95

["Appeal" to the Iraqi people issued by a number of Iraqi opposition parties on 12 October; read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] O sons of our Iraqi people: In the next few days, our country will witness a false referendum on the president of the republic. The so-called Revolutionary Command Council amended the interim constitution to offer Saddam Husayn as the sole candidate after he ruled Iraq for 16 years against the will of our Iraqi people. This laughable gimmick by the authorities is a failed attempt to absorb people's rage, especially after the fragmentation of the ruling tyranny's structure. The authority has no legitimacy to rule or remain in power; it has never been associated with democratic practices, but with oppression, wars, and bloody massacres. This is proven by the methods of pressure and terrorism the authority is using to force citizens to participate in the referendum and give their votes to the dictator.

The authority's frenzied and [word indistinct] attempt to beautify the ugly face of the dictator shows that it is aware that our courageous people have already cast their votes in blood and in the field of confrontation against the chauvinistic dictatorship and its oppressive agencies through the glorious uprising of March 1991. This time, as our people are watching the chapters of the farce, they are called upon to take the daring position of boycotting the referendum. And let those who cannot boycott it leave the polling card blank as a proof of their rejection of the dictatorship.

Our people, burned by the flames of dictatorship and economic blockade, reject this farce by the ruling authority. Huge funds are being spent on this farce at a time when hunger intensifies, suffering mounts, and the double-sided blockade against Kurdistan continues. Citizens in Kurdistan are suffering under the yoke of bitter economic and living conditions, especially now that winter is coming and the dictatorial authority in Baghdad is preventing every drop of oil and any heating material from arriving into Kurdistan. There is no way to get out of all this other than overthrowing the dictatorship and establishing the federal democratic Iraq that secures people's rights to freedom, security, and a dignified life.

O sons of our great people — Arabs, Kurds, and other nationalities; o military men rejecting dictatorship; o you who stood against colonialism and its followers; o heroes of the 14 July 1958 revolution; o you who suffered all kinds of anguish as a result of the dictatorship, its aggressive wars, and its policies which are hostile to the people's interests: We invite you all to stand united against the ruling authority. Let us repeat together: No to Saddam Husayn, no to the farce of the referendum. Raise your voices loud against the killer rulers. Glory to our steadfast people; death to the abhorrent dictatorship.

[Dated] Irbil, Iraq's Kurdistan, on 12 October 1995

Signed by: The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Kurdistan Toilers Party, the Iraqi Communist Party, the Iraqi Turkoman Front, the Assyrian Democratic Movement, and the Iraqi National Accord Movement

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Anti-Referendum Leaflets Distributed

JN1410183195 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1515 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources in the Governorates of Karbala' and al-Najaf have said that the tyrant's security authorities, and upon orders from Qusayy Saddam, have intensified their patrols and roadblocks at the entrance of the cities of Karbala' and al-Najaf. The sources say that the henchmen of the regime in these patrols and on roadblocks continue inspection operations against citizens in an unprecedented manner. The sources said these harassments covered even visitors of the holy shrines.

The sources said that holy Karbala' and al-Najaf have witnessed over the past few days a wide campaign to distribute revolutionary and jihad leaflets calling on our people to boycott the referendum farce and reject the black Saddamist rule. The sources noted positive reactions to the distribution of these leaflets.

PUK's Talabani Terms Referendum 'Farce'

JN1410134295 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Regarding tomorrow's referendum in Iraq on the presidential post, the first of its kind, the Iraqi Shiite opposition today revealed that more than 30,000 Iraqis, who reside in Iran, have signed statements condemning the referendum and describing it as a political maneuver which aims at strengthening the regime of Saddam Husayn. It is known that the Iraqi referendum, which will take place tomorrow, will not cover Iraq's Kurdistan. What is the stand of the Kurdish leaders who oppose this referendum. In a statement to our radio, Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], said:

[Begin Talabani recording] This farce referendum is considered a ridicule of Arab and world public opinion and is considered a new insult to the Iraqi people who are deprived of all rights and democratic liberties. Usually, throughout the world, like in France, elections are held to choose one of two different candidates. In Iraq, there is one candidate and every person, who lives under this dictatorship, is forced to say yes, because if he does not vote and say yes he will be deprived of all food supplies and aid. Also, those who do not vote will be sent to jail and will be exposed to the known repressive measures of the Iraqi dictatorship.

We, of course, oppose this referendum and consider it false and illegitimate, particularly since darkness in Iraq is getting longer under this dictatorship. President Saddam Husayn has been in power for more than 16 years without people's authorization, without elections, and without even any farce referendums. We believe that it is time the Iraqi people enjoyed their right to the freedom of elections and to a democratic, parliamentary, pluralist system. [end recording]

SAIRI: Referendum 'Media Exercise'

LD1410204995 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Interview with SAIRI Chairman Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim by correspondent Yusuf Mustafa on 14 October; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Mustafa] Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, you have spoken at length about this false referendum. We have also talked about the internal collapse of the Iraqi regime and the defection of many of its officials. Are there other reasons which have prompted the ruler in Baghdad to hold this so-called referendum?

[Al-Hakim] Naturally, the collapse of and deteriorating state of the regime are not new. There have been many incidents this year, as a result of which the regime was forced to put all its organizations and forces in a state of full alert. There is a deep feeling in the regime's organizations that there are changes taking place in Iraq, and there is a fear of a wide-scale uprising against the regime's organizations. [passage omitted]

The regime is trying to stage a media exercise to deceive world public opinion, since the Iraqi people are already aware of these facts. The regime is trying to deceive world public opinion by this media exercise. However, this campaign has failed to a large extent, and the regime has not been able to make anything out of it. Therefore, I believe that it will make another attempt to cover up its failure.

[Mustafa] What role has the Iraqi opposition played in Iraq to express its rejection of this false referendum?

[Al-Hakim] The Iraqi opposition has carried out extensive action in and outside Iraq. The extensive action has led to the rapid failure of the regime in its attempts. The opposition inside Iraq has exposed the rigging of the referendum from the legal, procedural, or executive aspects. In addition to that, it has written slogans and distributed leaflets which express the rejection of and the unacceptability of Saddam's regime. Since citizens are in an embarrassing position with regard to the referendum issue, they have had to carry out actions parallel to the referendum which express their true rejection of Saddam's regime.

In this area, the opposition has used new methods which the regime has not been expecting. For example, the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraqi currency is worth less than the paper it is printed on. Iraqis have written slogans rejecting Saddam's regime on banknotes and circulated them in various areas; at Iraqi schools, areas of congregation like bus stations and other places. [passage omitted]

[Mustafa] Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim: The Iraqi regime has extended a false invitation to foreign journalists and media-men to attend this false referendum. Regarding the small misguided group of diplomats and journalists who went to Iraq to follow up this referendum. What would you say to them?

[Al-Hakim] You know that the regime initially invited 20,000 persons and then the number continued to decline until yesterday it admitted that only 50 people had arrived. This is because the houses of deputies and parliaments of the world refused to take part in this false and exposed operation. Anybody that respects himself or herself refrained from taking part in this operation and none of those have gone to Iraq. No parliament or any international council has taken part in this operation although the regime invited all those councils to attend. However, it was faced with utter failure in this respect.

As for the few journalists who went there, I could classify them into three categories: some of them are those who clap and receive wages for their clapping. They are a group of wage-earners and clients who receive their wages for their support of the regime. The stances of these are known, whether it was during the aggression of the regime on the state of Kuwait or the aggression of the regime on the Islamic Republic [of Iran], or the other acts of the regime.

The second type of these are a group of spies who want to seize the opportunity to know what is going on inside Iraq and they are connected to the world intelligence agencies which are interested to know the details of the situation inside Iraq. These institutions send journalists under well known names to gather the required information.

The third type of these, and they are very few, are those who do not know the facts. We expect that the truth will be revealed to those while they are inside Iraq. We call on them to be cautious and seek the facts and reveal the facts to the world.

[Mustafa] Thank you your eminence Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI].

[Al-Hakim] I thank you as well.

SAIRI Chairman: Referendum 'Illegal'

JN1510191595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Statement by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, to radio correspondent Salah Salamah on the general referendum; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] This referendum is illegal and illegitimate because it was decided by the Revolution Command Council, which was not elected by the Iraqi people, and which was imposed on the Iraqi people throughout the past 27 years. Such a referendum is not the first of its kind in Iraq, but the first of its kind in the world. Those who know the history of democracies and sees that the referendum is being held in such a manner will find that this referendum is being held under a repressive government that is isolated on the internal and external levels. Such a referendum does not have any legislative or legal justification. And the Iraqi people themselves are aware of this fact. Therefore, Saddam's objective behind holding this referendum is to deceive world public opinion. The regime seeks allegiance from the Iraqi people. The opposition has agreed on the political alternative; namely, to remove the Saddam regime and give the Iraqi people the freedom to elect the administration they want, as well as give the Iraqi people political pluralism and freedom, justice, and equality. All parties to the Iraqi opposition have agreed on this political alternative, and they are seeking to achieve this alternative. We believe that this will be attainable in a short time, God willing.

Kurdish Writer Welcomes Referendum

JN1410132695 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 14 Oct 95 s

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)— A well-known Iraqi Kurdish figure said the popular referendum is, in fact, a referendum for the symbol of the unity of Iraq, with its Arabs, Kurds, and other minorities.

In an article published in AL-'IRAQ today, Sirwan al-Jaf says President Saddam Husayn embodies all the meanings of Iraqi patriotism, manliness, and bravery since he is the symbol of the Iraqis and their national unity.

He adds: The Iraqi Kurdistan, which is loyal to President Saddam Husayn, the architect of autonomy, will express its loyalty to, and affiliation with President Saddam Husayn despite the abnormal conditions prevailing there because of the spears and canopy of the foreigner that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

seek to humiliate the Kurdish people and obliterate their Iraqi identity.

He stresses that depriving the Iraqi people of their legitimate right to cast their vote in the referendum and humiliating them through the feeble Kurdish elements in the autonomous region serve the U.S. schemes, which seek to preserve the U.S. interests, strike at the interests and ambitions of the people of the region, and infringe on Iraq's sovereignty.

Sirwan al-Jaf says the meetings which the feeble leaders in the autonomous region are holding in Dublin, Tehran, and Washington do not help achieve the hopes and ambitions of the people of the region and constitute a flagrant encroachment on Iraq and the unity of its people and land.

He calls for ending all forms of U.S. military presence in Iraq, for terminating the abnormal conditions, and for the return of law and order to the region.

Papers View Significance of Referendum

JN1410130195 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0850 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers stress that the Iraqis will tomorrow say "Yes, Yes" to President Saddam Husayn because he is their only guarantee for a unified, glorious, and strong Iraq, unshaken by enemies regardless of the extent of their evil intentions.

In articles and editorials published today, the Iraqi papers say the general referendum, which will be conducted tomorrow for the post of the president of the republic, is a landmark in the legend of the Iraqis and their peerless leader and their militant (jihadi) struggle against the forces of evil and falsehood which sought to murder everything human and civilized.

The paper says: We go to the ballot boxes fully convinced that the United States is an archenemy of Iraq because democracy will provide the Iraqi people with the opportunity to say their word and to express their free will.

In an article entitled "Iraq's Day", the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says the steadfast Iraqi people will tomorrow say "Yes to the Leader." The people will display all the great love they hold for the loyal leader Saddam Husayn, who has devoted his life to fight the holy battles to defend the people, the country, and the nation.

The paper adds: Sunday will be the day of all Iraq. It will also be the day of all Arabs and all those who champion humanity and democracy. It will be a glorious day that will take our people to a stage with broader horizons. Tomorrow, our people will open another bright chapter in Iraq's glorious history.

In an article entitled "The Decisive Word," the newspaper AL-'IRAQ says: By saying "Yes," the Iraqis will summarize all their glories in the battles of heroism and sacrifice, starting with the 1920 revolution, the May uprising, the 17-30 July Revolution, the immortal decision to nationalize oil, the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah, the historic duel in the immortal Mother of Battles, and their valiant resistance against the economic embargo.

The paper adds: Tomorrow, the U.S. Administration and its allies will realize that their aggressions and conspiracies have failed to reduce the people's confidence in their leader, not even by an inch. The Iraqi people will tomorrow turn the evil deeds of the agents of the U.S. intelligence services and the Zionist Mosad, and all those who wish to harm Iraq, against them.

For its part, BABIL says: The people have said their word. The voice of the good, honorable people eclipsed the voice of the enemies, traitors, hirelings, and the dishonest people.

In an article entitled "Let Happiness Disperse the Darkness of the Siege," the paper says: The people have said their word. They said it through the educated and simple sentence. They said it through writing and in lines of poetry. They said it in the shining banners, and in the red and white flags with the word of God written over them. Our people also said their word through the prayers of mothers and fathers.

Extending Saddam's Term Urged as Anti-U.S. Move

NC1410112395 Paris AFP in English
0917 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 14 (AFP) — The Iraqi Government on Saturday [14 October] sought to rally voters ahead of the country's first referendum on extending President Saddam Husayn's mandate with a fierce attack on the United States.

The official daily newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH said the Iraqi people should vote to extend the president's mandate for a further seven years as a gesture against US hostility and interference in the country's affairs.

The attack followed comments from US officials on Friday who predicted sanctions keeping Iraq's oil off world markets would stay in force for at least another year after the disclosure of new details on Baghdad's arms programme.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

"Why does the United States refuse all dialogue with Iraq and insist on destroying it?" AL-JUMHURIYAH asked.

"Oil and Zionism are the reason for this hostility," it added, accusing the US of working in the interests of Israel and Gulf Arab oil producers allied to Washington.

"That is why it is logical to defend Iraq by sticking to the only guarantee that Iraq will remain strong and unified. There is no honourable salvation for the country unless Saddam Husayn is our guide.

"We are going to voting centres knowing that the United States is the sworn enemy of democracy in Iraq and that the embargo is an act aimed against democracy, judging by the crimes it engenders," the paper said.

US officials provoked a furious reaction in Baghdad on Friday after saying that the embargo, imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, should stay in force because of damning evidence that weapons programmes had been concealed.

"It's certainly not weeks or months," a spokesman for US Ambassador to the United Nations Madeleine Albright said. "It is difficult to imagine Iraq being able to establish its credibility in a year."

Albright, speaking to journalists, said a UN report on Iraqi disarmament released Wednesday was "stunning" and showed that Iraq "cheated and lied more than anybody suspected."

"Given this record of double dealing, I have to say I would be surprised if they had given up their desire for weapons of mass destruction, or their habit of lying and cheating to the international community," she said.

The report from the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) asserted Baghdad gave "misleading" data on secret nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as missiles and warheads it amassed before the war.

The UNSCOM is charged with investigating Iraqi compliance with UN Security Council resolutions following the Gulf War in 1991.

Elections Viewed as 'Cruel Parody of Democracy'

MS1310102295 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 13 Oct 95 p 15

[Report by Anton La Guardia: "Sham Election in Iraq Will Conceal the Voters' Anger"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad — After enduring two wars and five years of economic sanctions, Iraqis are now being subjected to a cruel parody of democracy. On Sunday, they will vote on whether they want President Saddam Husayn to stay on for another seven-year term of office.

The exercise is being presented by Baghdad's press as the birth of Iraqi democracy.

But there is only one candidate on the ballot, and the answer has already been decreed in banners raised throughout the country — "Yes, Yes to the leader Saddam Husayn".

The once-affluent Mansour Melia hotel, where the casino and bar have closed down and bedrooms have no lightbulbs, has been decorated with lights spelling out "We all say Yes to Saddam Husayn" — in English, for the benefit of the thousands of journalists and international parliamentarians come to witness the event.

These "observers" have no power to monitor the process. They are just part of the window-dressing.

Only in the privacy of a home, in the back of a taxi, or in comments whispered in an office, does one sense the depth of frustrated anger.

One acquaintance said: "Even if you vote no, the result will be yes. It does not change anything to vote no, so why take the risk?"

Iraqi officials say the referendum is the first step in a process of greater political liberalisation. Diplomats have been told it could be followed by elections to the parliament and a new constitution.

The English-language BAGHDAD OBSERVER said this transition from "revolutionary legitimacy to constitutional legitimacy" had been planned long ago, but was delayed by factors such as the Iran-Iraq War and the 1991 Gulf War known as the US-led aggression".

However, diplomats in Baghdad said the reform process had been prompted by Saddam's crisis over the defection to Jordan of his two daughters with their husbands, one of them Husayn Kamil. Iraq's No 2 and architect of the nuclear weapons programme.

"It is rather cosmetic, but the aim is to strengthen the regime internally and externally, and show that nothing has changed," said one diplomat. "After Husayn Kamil's defection, the regime understands it needs to broaden its power base and regain credibility." Diplomats said that as a result of the tensions within his Tikriti clan, caused in part by the ambition and violence of his elder son 'Udayy, Saddam had added some outsiders to his government, such as the new ministers of interior and defence.

He also hopes to win the support of some neighbouring Arab states, such as Syria, who seem ready to accept

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saddam's hold on power rather than risk the regional upheaval which his overthrow may cause.

"The elections fool nobody," said one diplomat, "but those who wish to say that we should look at the question of Saddam will use it for their own purposes."

High-Ranking Iraqi Officers Defect to Kurdistan

LD1510215495 Tehran IRNA in English 2140 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Oct. 15, IRNA — A group of high ranking Iraqi military officers recently defected to the areas of northern Iraq controlled by dissident Kurdish factions, an informed Iraqi opposition source said here Sunday [15 October]. According to the source one brigadier general, two colonels and a major were among the defecting officers.

He identified one of the defectors as Colonel Yusuf Khalaf Khaffaji the commander of the second battalion of Brigade 116 who joined the opposition forces in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The source, however, did not give the date of defection or the names of the other defectors. The three northern provinces of al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil and Dahuk, have been outside the control of Baghdad following the 1991 American-Iraqi war.

Another Iraqi opposition source spoke of growing discord and discontent in Iraq's military ranks. He added that many military personnel have deserted and are hiding in Iraq's southern towns and villages. There are reports of army deserters holed up in the vast southern marshes since the failure of the popular uprising of 1991 and the havoc let loose by the Iraqi Republican Guards on the country's Shi'ite Arab majority.

Ironically, the person who masterminded the bloodbath and the subsequent desecration of the holy shrines in Karbala' and al-Najaf, Lt.-Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan (President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law) defected to Jordan last August, in what is seen as a tussle for power in the family itself.

Defecting Protocol Official Holds News Conference

LD1210125195 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1117 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Charles Miller, PA News]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The former head of protocol at Saddam Husayn's presidential palace was paraded before the world's media today in a false beard and dark glasses.

Husayn Rashid Hassan, the latest in a growing line of Iraqi defectors, is not viewed by British intelligence as having had access to the most crucial details of Saddam's government or military machine.

But as master of ceremonies at the palace as well as key diplomatic posts in France and Africa, he would have seen and heard sensitive information likely to be of interest to the likes of MI6.

His defection is yet another blow to Saddam, whose son-in-law and close adviser Lt Gen Kamal Hassan defected to Jordan in August.

Mr Hassan issued an appeal to officials within Saddam's regime to stand up and fight for their country.

"I appeal to all diplomats and Iraqi officials to end their relations with Saddam and his family, to join their fellow citizens and work towards rescuing what remains in Iraq back to the Arab, Islamic and international circles as before," he said.

Mr Hassan pointedly refused to give details of precisely when he left Iraq but it is widely believed that he managed to escape after two assassination attempts on his life about a year ago.

And he stressed he was concerned for the safety of his family still in Iraq, who he said had been threatened.

Mr Hassan, 44, insisted he had come to Britain by himself without help from any foreign government.

He accused Saddam of "deviousness" with the United Nations and the international community over his huge programme of weapons of mass destruction.

And he attacked Saddam's method of using terrorism, imprisonment, torture and killings against the Iraqi people.

"My rejection of these wrong policies and support of the efforts of the Iraqi opposition to rescue the Iraqi people is one of the reasons behind my opposition to the regime," he said.

Saddam's regime was on the verge of collapse, he said, following the defection of Kamal Hassan and recent uprisings within Iraq.

He admitted that he did not know whether the intelligence he had gleaned would be of use to Britain.

And he emphasised it was inevitably of much less interest than that given by Kamal.

But Mr Hassan warned that Saddam still had plans to invade both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and was attempting to rebuild his army, seeking to buy 4,000 Russian built tanks and repairing all his existing weapons.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He revealed that Kuwaiti prisoners of war were still held in Iraq and were being transferred from prison to prison to avoid detection by the UN. He did not know how many were involved but insisted his information was only a few weeks old.

He said there were strong feuds between the members of Saddam's family and disclosed how the Iraqi leader had shown a film of someone having his hand broken as a warning to anyone of his family who considered stepping out of line.

And he concluded that Saddam personally was responsible for all the weapons programmes highlighted in the UN report last night.

London Press Office Denies Defection

MM1610124195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Oct 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Baghdad Denies Chief of Protocol's Defection"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Iraqi press office in London has denied that the presidential office's chief of protocol has broken with his president and joined the opposition abroad. The press office said in a leaflet circulated yesterday, of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy, that claims made by Husayn Rashid Hasan at a news conference in the British capital the day before yesterday, that he was the chief of protocol in the Iraqi president's office, are untrue.

It said that the real name of the person addressing the news conference is Haytham Rashid 'Ali Wahib and that he was third secretary at the Iraqi Embassy in Senegal, before being transferred to the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry (in Baghdad)."

The leaflet alleged that the man "did not have any connection with and did not work in either the Iraqi Foreign Ministry's or the president's protocol office." Husayn Rashid Hasan had said that he had held many posts in the Iraqi diplomatic corps before being appointed chief of protocol in President Saddam Husayn's office on the orders of General Husayn Kamil (currently a political refugee in Jordan) when he was the special security organ chief.

Husayn Kamil Said 'Contemplating' Move to U.S.

TA1310143295 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 11 Oct 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office — It is being said here that Husayn Kamil, the former Iraqi minister of industry, who is currently residing in Amman after fleeing Baghdad two months ago, is seriously contemplating leaving Jordan because of the Jordanian Government's economic links with Iraq.

It has been learned here that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law (Husayn Kamil) is thinking of heading for the United States, which continues to ignore his request in this regard, as has already been indicated.

On the other hand, interest in the case of the former senior Iraqi official — whether positively or negatively — has dwindled here after the political and media arenas witnessed an extensive debate by his supporters and opponents.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

IDF Confirms 6 Killed in Lebanon Explosion

TA1510142095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1331 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Report by Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[FBIS Translated Text] The following is an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's statement, which has just been released: An IDF officer and five soldiers were killed when an explosive device went off in the eastern sector of the security zone in south Lebanon this morning. One soldier sustained serious injuries. All the soldiers' families have been notified. The fallen soldiers are Captain Yosi Ohana, 24, from Ashdod; First Sergeant Eyal Dror, 21, from Me'ona; First Sergeant Eyal Sameah, 21, from Ramat Gan; First Sergeant Gay Haqaq, 21, from Moshav Yesha'; Sergeant Ya'ir Baraq, 20, from Petah Tiqva; Sergeant Yotam 'Inbar, 20, from Neve Monosson. Their families have been notified.

The casualties were sustained when an IDF detail conducting an operational activity ran over a powerful explosive device in the eastern sector of the security zone.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1340 adds: "Yitzhaq Rabin, who was briefed on the situation in south Lebanon throughout the day, has decided to clear his schedule today for consultations with senior defense establishment officials."]

Shahaq Holds News Conference on Lebanon Events

TA1510171095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1453 GMT 15 Oct 95

[News conference by Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq, chief of staff, with domestic military correspondents at an IDF position on the Israeli-Lebanese border — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shahaq] Slightly after 0500 [0300 GMT] this morning, a Golani Brigade patrol engaged in routine activity moved two armored vehicles into the area of al-'Ayshiyah. A few minutes after 0500, it drove over a relatively large explosive charge, and as a result of the ensuing explosion, the force sustained five deaths and two injuries. One of the injured men died several hours later. Now the force has six fatalities and one wounded soldier.

The event was tough, especially since we are so close to the other one, which occurred not very far from the scene of today's occurrence — 3 or 4 km as the crow flies, I believe. This is the second painful event the Golani Brigade has been through lately. I think we all feel for the bereaved families and would like to see the wounded rejoin us as soon as possible. We are all members of the Golani family on this sad evening.

The activity in the area is going on right now; our troops are still carrying out activities in the area. Furthermore, we cannot be certain that the terrorists are not all in the area in which we are operating, and we will therefore continue, in the coming days, to operate in that area, in which two events have taken place. We must not forget that we live and operate in this place all the time, and we will go on doing these things. I will take your questions now.

[Qol Yisra'el Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe] Chief of Staff, nine fallen soldiers in one week: Is there any way the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] can deal with such powerful explosive charges?

[Shahaq] These charges are not a new phenomenon, I am sorry to say. I believe that you military correspondents heard details about it in a meeting with the Northern Command chief two days ago. We have to deal with a variety of events. There are many explosive charges, but we also have to contend with long-range Saggers and mortar fire. The event that took place on the night of 12 October included both an explosive charge and gunfire, and some of the casualties were hit by short-range terrorist gunfire on the road. The terrorists carry out a rather wide variety of operations here, and charges are one of their methods against us. We have our own countermeasures. We discover a large part of their explosive charges, but not all of them, and the last two events were painful evidence of the continued existence of painful explosive charges that harm us.

[Menashe] Is the IDF not confined by the Operation Accountability understandings from operating north of the security zone, inside Lebanese-controlled villages?

[Shahaq] There is nothing to prevent us from operating against Hizballah. We have operated against Hizballah, and we will continue doing so. The understandings do not prevent us from operating against Hizballah, because we do not fire into the villages, but we have and will hurt Hizballah. In recent months, the Northern Command has caused Hizballah some considerable damage, and we will pursue this course of action.

[IDF Radio's Golan Yokhpaz] Chief of Staff, foreign media reported exchanges of heavy fire in Lebanon in recent days. Does this indicate some sort of an escalation, or a new phase in the Hizballah activity in the region?

[Shahaq] This question is asked each time people are hurt in a terrorist attack. Escalation? Friends, it is a war. This is a war with dozens, hundreds of events every year. Unfortunately, some of these events entail

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

casualties on our side, as today's event did. This is a war that has being going on for a long time and one that, I think, will continue.

[Yokhpaz] The question is whether the recent events reflect some kind of an effort by one of the sides — perhaps the Syrians — to cause an escalation, a heating up of the area.

[Shahaq] The latest events indicate that there are events. I am unable to tell you whether there has been a dramatic escalation. I suggest we stop constantly compiling statistics, although those should be studied, too. I do not think a dramatic rise has taken place, but I do think we have had two events that are very hard to bear, very painful for us. As for the number of events, I do not think that a check of the figures will reveal a big change from the past.

[TV Channel 1 correspondent Dan Scemama] Do you see a connection with the fact that the negotiations with the Syrians are deadlocked?

[Shahaq] I do not know. I see a connection — which dates back to some time before the negotiations — between Hizballah and the Syrians, Hizballah and Iran. There is nothing new here, and I think it is wrong to emphasize such a link even when we hurt. The link existed before, and it still does. Had the Syrian wanted it, Hizballah would have a much harder time operating. All I can say is that the Syrians do nothing to prevent Hizballah from operating against us, although they could — there is no doubt about that.

[Scemama] Do you mean that since this is nothing new, we will not retaliate in any way beyond our usual measures?

[Shahaq] This question, too, seems almost trite. We will operate against Hizballah anywhere we see fit. We have never been limited in this sense, and we are not going to be.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do the Hizballah actions reflect a fear of a political arrangement in the region, which will somehow shackle the organization?

[Shahaq] It does not matter tonight. We are waging a war on Hizballah, and Hizballah has its own reasons for action, and its current course of action is continued operations against us.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1600 GMT on 15 October carries a report by correspondent Alan Ben-'Ami on Gen. Shahaq's remarks at the same news conference, adding: "While reports from south Lebanon talked of an Israeli buildup in the security zone, talking to reporters on the northern border late this afternoon, the chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq, denied the reports." In a recorded passage, Shahaq says: "They are not correct, and there are many reports — this is one of them."]

Special Cabinet Meeting on Events in North Called

TA1510114395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Due to the escalation in the north the prime minister has decided to hold a special cabinet meeting on 17 October, after the holiday. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that a high-level security consultation took place at Rabin's office in Tel Aviv this morning, with the participation of the chief of staff and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] leadership. As a result, meetings scheduled to deal with other issues were canceled.

Peres Warns Against Military Escalation in Lebanon

TA1510133495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said a short while ago that the Syrian and Lebanese Governments should prevent the situation in southern Lebanon from escalating.

[Begin Peres recording] The escalation in Lebanon is very dangerous to all the parties in the region. Right now I do not want to mete out blame; I would rather state who is able to prevent a conflagration. There is no doubt Syria should participate in preventing a conflagration, as should the Government of Lebanon, because we cannot sit idly by while there are repeated attacks on our troops. [end recording]

Rabin Said Not Seeking 'Large-Scale' Action

TA1510191495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Studio talk between moderator 'Arad Nir and political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Nir] The prime minister is convening a special cabinet session after the holiday, on 17 October. Will he seek the ministers' approval for a retaliatory operation?

[Rosen] Rabin will naturally make his decisions without the ministers. What Rabin needs is a cabinet endorsement for his decisions, and these are not going to be popular, because he is not about to make grand decisions of the kind that can solve everything. I do not think he is going to advise the cabinet of a decision to launch a retaliatory operation. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Nir] Then what are the operative options open to the prime minister?

[Rosen] It is an acute dilemma. Deciding on a large-scale action in south Lebanon is no problem. As we remember from Operation Accountability, an operation like that can be carried out without incurring heavy human losses for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The real price, however, will be in the form of katyushas on our northern towns. The prime minister does not want to launch a war of attrition in the north, and such a war is probably unwarranted, in military terms. Therefore, what the prime minister is about to decide and put forth to the ministers is an expansion of military activity in south Lebanon: more operations, more sophistication, more pinpointed actions. He is evidently not about to propose large-scale military action.

Sarid, Netanyahu Differ on Need for Action

TA1610104595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid told IDF Radio this morning that while action against Hizballah is necessary, Israel must act with caution, weighing the impact of its operations on the well-being of the residents of northern Israel.

[Begin Sarid recording] Deciding on a large-scale operation would be no problem, but such an operation would not necessarily mean a huge success or a definitive solution of the situation in Lebanon. We know from past experience that while we can see a clear picture at the beginning of an operation, we have no way of knowing how it will end. Complications always lurk around the corner. Therefore, we should make sure that the damage does not outweigh the advantages of our acts. [end recording]

Knesset Member Binyamin Netanyahu, Likud chairman, said in reaction that Hizballah has been taking advantage of the protection it derives from understandings achieved in the wake of Operation Accountability, and that Hizballah's sense of security should be shattered.

[Begin Netanyahu recording] A very sharp, very firm reaction must be meted out. They should know we will get them wherever they are and deal them a powerful blow. It is absolutely imperative, and I promise that if the government does it, it will have the opposition's full support. [end recording]

Qiryat Shemona Mayor Prosper 'Azran told IDF Radio this morning that the residents of northern Israel are expecting the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to carry out a firm act of retaliation inside Lebanon.

Opposition Demands Action in Lebanon

TA1510181095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Likud Party has called on the government to bring quiet back to the northern border, regardless of the negotiations with Syria.

Tzomet leader Refa'el Eytan said that political constraints are the only thing preventing the army from destroying Hizballah. He called on the government to warn Damascus of the consequences of its support of the group.

Moledet leader Rehav'am Ze'evi called on the government to mete out similarly painful consequences upon the Shiite population north of the security zone, in order to bring an end to the Hizballah activities.

Likud Knesset Member Moshe Qatzav told us a short while ago that Israel has no choice but to take whatever hard steps are necessary. [passage omitted]

[The Qol Yisra'el newscast also carries an interview with Health Minister Efrayim Sne, a former military commander of south Lebanon, recorded on 15 October, who is asked by correspondent David Essing: "The cabinet is going to be meeting on Tuesday [17 October]. Do you foresee any dramatic developments from that cabinet meeting?" Sne replies: "Dramatic? No."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 15 October cites Sne as saying that "there is no room for extensive military action in south Lebanon in retaliation for the terrorist attack, because as we know from experience, such action would be more detrimental than beneficial."]

Rabinovich Comments on Syrian Role in Lebanon

TA1510161495 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1345 GMT 15 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Itamar Rabinovich, ambassador to the United States, in Washington, by correspondent Mikha Friedman, in the studio — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Friedman] I would like to start with some wishful thinking: Would today's terrorist attack in south Lebanon have been prevented if we had had a peace accord with Syria and Lebanon?

[Rabinovich] I think the odds that it would not have happened would have been much better than they are now, because any future agreement between us and Syria, if one is achieved, will have to include an arrangement with Lebanon, as well as a Syrian pledge to prevent any terrorist activity emanating from Lebanon.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Friedman] Is Syria merely turning a blind eye to the situation, enabling Hizballah to operate with ease, or is it also encouraging — or even worse — prodding Hizballah to carry out terrorist attacks, as part of a political strategy stemming from the standoff in the negotiations with Israel?

[Rabinovich] This is something we do not know. There is no question that Syria is turning a blind eye. As for direct or indirect encouragement, that can be done discretely, in ways we cannot detect. The question itself is very pertinent, because the Syrians have lately intensified their criticism directed against the Palestinians and the Jordanians. One of the ways they can voice their displeasure with the peace process and the normalization, which are going on without them, and to apply pressure is precisely through the ways you mentioned — although the Syrians know, of course, that this is a dangerous path, because besides being an arena where Syria can pressure us, Lebanon is a place where Syria is vulnerable.

[Friedman] Is there any chance of attaining an agreement with Syria on an amendment of the understandings with Hizballah, which were achieved through Syria?

[Rabinovich] A chance does exist. The agreement worked for some time, but as we all remember, there were later deviations from the agreement, when katyushas were fired at the Galilee in violation of the agreement, or by taking advantage of gray areas in the agreement. It is our duty as negotiators, as people who are trying to promote our interests, to assume that the goal is achievable. When an agreement is actually on the agenda, I think we will act to make it more foolproof, in order to prevent events of the kind we have been discussing.

[Friedman] I am afraid it was neither a violation nor a gray area in this instance. The terrorists evidently operated within the very parameters established by the agreement, so to speak. The question is whether the agreement has become unfeasible, from Israel's viewpoint, and whether Israel should act to have it amended.

[Rabinovich] This agreement does not permit the placing of explosive devices to harm IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. The agreement aims to prevent the launching of katyushas at the Galilee, and it denotes situations in which reaction to gunfire from villages is permissible. The focus of the agreement is totally different. It was designed to guarantee calm, stability, nonaggression against IDF troops, and nonaggression against Syria or its interests. I think there is room for discussion and action, at least in theory.

[Friedman] Has the escalation in our region caused a further postponement of the visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Damascus and Jerusalem, a visit that was already put off until November?

[Rabinovich] Not necessarily. [passage omitted] Rising tension between Israel and Syria can, of course, encumber his visit and the negotiations, but on the other hand, it can make the secretary's visit more crucial — as it was at the end of Operation Accountability, when through telephone conversations from the Unites States, and later by a visit to the region, the secretary of state and his team helped us reach and secure understandings.

[Friedman] Professor Rabinovich, have you had any contacts with the U.S. Administration in the past hours or days, aimed at relaying messages to Syria and possibly to other destinations with which we conduct no dialogue, messages notifying them of the gravity of the escalation on our northern border?

[Rabinovich] We did not deal with the Lebanese issue specifically before today's event, but it is naturally at the center of our activity right now.

[Friedman] Thank you very much.

Territories Closure To Be Lifted 17 Oct

TA1510143395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The closure on Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip will be lifted at 0400 [0200 GMT] on 17 October. With the lifting of the closure, Palestinian workers over the age of 30 will be permitted to enter Israel, but vehicles transporting them will not be allowed into Israel. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that the workers will be picked up by their employers at the crossing points.

Palestinian Offices Closed in Janin Area

TA1410193995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli security forces today closed down five Palestinian Security offices in Janin District townships. Major General Ilan Biran, chief of the Central Command, ordered the offices closed because, under the Israeli-PLO agreement, the Palestinians may open police stations in the rural areas, but not official Preventive Security Service representations.

Following this violation of the agreement, Gen. Biran prohibited Jibril al-Rujub from leaving Jericho.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that two staffers of the closed offices were interrogated and released.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Security Sources Doubt PA-Hamas Rapprochement

TA1410131795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Israeli security sources believe there are no signs that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is willing to stop the attacks against Israel. The sources say that Palestinian Authority [PA] elements are trying to create the impression of a great rapprochement between the PA and Hamas; whereas, in reality the progress that has been made is slim.

Press Reports, Comments on al-Asad's Interview

TA1510185995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's interview in the 11 October issue of Cairo AL-AHRAM was reported and commented on by several Israeli newspapers on 12 and 13 October.

Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 12 October carries on page 2 a 500- word interview with Reserve Brigadier General Arye Shalev, "a senior analyst at the Jaffee Institute for Strategic Studies," by Hila Qomem. Asked whether the remarks of al-Asad and Syrian Chief of Staff al-Shihabi reflect a harsher tone, Shalev says that "al-Asad voiced the same stand Syria has been voicing since June." In reply to a question concerning al-Asad's attitude toward the Israeli- Palestinian agreement, he says: "The Syrians have a limited capability to torpedo the agreements with the Palestinians."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 12 October publishes on page 3 of its HAYOM supplement a 200-word editorial entitled "Al-Asad's Watch," which states: "No one knows what is on Hafiz al-Asad's mind as he follows Yitzhaq Rabin's moves and the public controversies in Israel concerning the peace process. One thing is obvious and clear: The Syrian president is in no hurry. All the U.S. Administration's efforts to persuade him to resume the negotiations with Israel by launching talks between officers, as agreed in advance, have to date been to no avail." The editorial concludes: "The Syrian president must possess a different watch, one the world is unable to read."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 October publishes on page B1 a 700-word editorial entitled "Awaiting the Syrian Message," which concludes from al-Asad's remarks that "al-Asad is apparently insecure to the extent of fearing to alter the negotiating procedure." The editorial adds: "Yet al-Asad may have reached the conclusion that if the Israelis do not easily accept his demands, he will do better to wait for the U.S. elections, which may bring to power a Republican administration, along with a firm mediator who will twist Israel's arm. Yet this expectation of al-Asad may be dashed, too; the 1990 negotiations are nothing like the ones conducted under Henry Kissinger's auspices in 1974."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 13 October reports al- Asad's remarks on pages 1 and 18, adding that "Israelis detected 'no give' in the rare interview that al-Asad gave to the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM published on Wednesday."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 13 October publishes on page 9 of its SHABAT supplement an 1,100-word article by Ben Kaspit, entitled "No One Is Rattled," which states: "The Egyptian president's effort has provoked al-Asad to make some extreme statements about the peace process, statements that reached a peak in an interview he gave to AL-AHRAM. Mubarak, who had come to mediate, found himself causing a rift. The American mission has become mission impossible.

"Here is the picture from the Syrian viewpoint: Al-Asad is unable to adapt to the change in the American style. He continues waiting for Kissinger, or at least Baker, to pop in for a visit, to twist Israel's arm, and to enforce Syrian — or semi-Syrian — peace on Israel."

Kaspit adds: "It is therefore believed in Jerusalem that al-Asad has recently lost all interest in the time factor. He is aware of the upcoming elections both in Israel and the United States, but he is not fazed. He will not budge until he gets what he wants — or at least a large portion of what he wants." Kaspit adds that al- Asad's "most recent statements can be interpreted as a declaration of a suspension of communication. However, they can also be perceived as the Syrian version of the biblical dove sent to check the level of (Rabin's) precipitation. The problem is that al-Asad is using ducks in lieu of doves."

Kaspit further says: "Despite everything, the effort continues. Itamar Rabinovich, for instance, is not fazed by al-Asad's latest declarations. These are the Syrian haggling techniques. Rabinovich does not deprecate the current U.S. effort, and he thinks it is definitely possible that he will have to meet with his old acquaintance Walid al-Mu'allim as early as next week."

Petition on Embassy Move Sent to Senators, Clinton

TA1510180995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A petition signed by thousands of Israelis in support of moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem has been sent to senators in Washington. The petition, initiated by former Ambassador Zalman Shoval, will also be given to President Clinton, asking him not to block legislation in the Senate this week for the transfer of the embassy to Jerusalem in 1999.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

New Missiles Seen Making Arrow Obsolete

TA1610092995 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Oct 95 p B1

[Article by Re'uven Pedatzur: "A New Threat to the Arrow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A recent intelligence analysis published in the United States casts doubt on the future development plans of antiballistic missile defense systems in the United States and Israel, and calls for a reassessment of the policymakers' basic premises. The intelligence analysis states that within a few years, China and North Korea will be able to develop ballistic missiles with blast fragmentation warheads containing some 100 submunitions (similar to bomblet-filled cluster bombs), weighing about 5 kg each.

These two countries' technologies will permit their engineers to plan missiles that will carry warheads capable of dispensing submunitions at a 60-km altitude from the launch site. In such a case, all 100 bomblets will continue their ballistic trajectory and land on the target site in a 20-second-long volley. U.S. Administration officials who deal with arms control have voiced their concern about the intelligence analysis, which contended that China and North Korea will sell blast fragmentation missiles to Middle East countries such as Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Libya.

The impact of a volley of 100 bomblets filled with chemical warfare agents landing in a densely populated residential area can be easily imagined. In the quite realistic case of 10-15 missiles' landing in the Tel Aviv area, for instance, 1,000 to 1,500 bomblets will disperse over the city, spraying it with 5,000 to 7,900 kg of chemical warfare agents.

Yet even if the submunitions are conventional, rather than chemical, the damage inflicted by the impact of more than 1,000 bomblets (each of which can reach sufficient velocity to penetrate a tall building) is enormous, to say nothing of the psychological effect of such volleys of bomblets.

It is also possible to equip these missiles with cluster-bomb- type bomblets, which contain a large number of lethal metal fragments. Missiles with such blast fragmentation warheads can sow terror very effectively.

What renders the U.S. intelligence analysis pertinent for the current developments of antiballistic defense systems is the data on the submunitions' dispense point in the course of the ballistic missile's flight. American intelligence experts assess that the missile's warhead will open at an altitude of 60 km. This means that, if Iraq launches a ballistic missile at Israel, 100 bomblets will disperse in the air some 540 km from the target — which is also where defense systems, such as the Arrow, are stationed.

The problem is that the defense systems currently under development are designed to intercept the attacking missile in the last stage of its trajectory. The objective is to have the Arrow, for instance, intercept the attacking missile at a distance of about 70 km from the target (Tel Aviv, in this case). This means that a blast-fragmentation-warhead missile equipped with submunitions renders active defense systems, such as the Israeli Arrow or the American THAAD [Theater High Altitude Area Defense] or the ERINT [Exoatmospheric Interceptor], totally ineffective and operationally meaningless. Because any attempt to intercept all or most of each missile's 100 submunitions as they reach the defense system's effective range is both untenable and impractical.

The Syrians, too, will be able to launch such missiles, invalidating the Arrow system's operational capability. The Arrow system will be powerless even against missiles whose range is 300 km, such as the Scud B, if they are equipped with submunition-filled warheads. The submunitions will disperse in the air of about a 240-km area, far beyond the Arrow's operational range.

One of the operational solutions that can be developed against this new threat is a weapon that can intercept the attacking ballistic missile during the launch stage — namely, shortly after it exits the launcher and long before its warhead opens to dispense submunitions. This is the attacking missile's most vulnerable stage. It is very slow before it is accelerated to its terminal velocity by the engine, and it is a large and easily detectable target owing to its large heat signature.

A missile hit at this stage will break down, and since it will still be over the launch area, its breakdown — and perhaps even a detonation of its warhead — will cause damage to the enemy who launched the missile. If the enemy decides to launch a nonconventional warhead missile, they will have to account for the possibility that, if the missile is intercepted during the launch stage, the nonconventional agents may strike their own civilians.

A solution of this nature was proposed by Israeli engineers after the Gulf War. They suggested developing a long-endurance RPV [remote-piloted vehicle] equipped with air-to-air missiles that will cruise the launch area. Its thermal sensors will allow it to detect every ballistic missile launch and to abort it with air-to-air missiles shortly after it exits its launchers. The American SDI directors agreed to finance a part of the relevant research, which is carried out by Israel's REFA'EL [Arms Development Authority], and similar plans were simultaneously launched in the United States.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The U.S. Army plans to use a fleet of advanced RPV's for this mission. Under the plan, the RPV's will cruise at an altitude of about 65,000 feet (higher than the effective altitude of most air defense systems); will have the characteristics of a stealth aircraft (one that cannot be detected by radar); and will be equipped with sensors that will detect the launch of attacking ballistic missiles and with two advanced air-to-air missiles, one of which will be launched at the ballistic missiles and the other at the launch vehicle.

The missile-attacking RPV's future is still vague. Several congressmen, who are trying to protect the original SDI plans, are objecting to the allocation of funds for the completion of the RPV's development.

Whatever the outcome of the struggle for the future of the U.S. defense plan, the development of missiles with blast fragmentation warheads calls for a reassessment of the Israeli position. The assumption that such missiles will reach the Middle East in about five years — probably before the Arrow development is completed — casts serious doubt on many of the basic premises on which the Arrow system development was originally based.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Senator Views Dole's U.S. Jerusalem Embassy Bill

JN1410131095 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bob Dole, the Republican leader in the U.S. Senate, introduced a new bill which calls for moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem provided that its opening will not be later than 31 May 1999.

In a statement to our radio, Senator Kamil al-Sharif, member of the Jordanian Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, commented on Senator Dole's bill.

[Begin al-Sharif recording] In fact, this issue was previously raised in the U.S. Congress, the latest of which, as I recall, was approximately six months ago by Senator Bob Dole himself. Dole is the U.S. Senate president and a Republican candidate for the coming presidential elections.

However, this proposal or move is more serious this time. Senator Dole managed to gain the approval of this initiative by a larger number of senators. Such initiatives used to be opposed by successive U.S. administrations. I believe that the Dole initiative is also opposed now; it is hoped that President Clinton will use the veto when necessary to prevent the Congress from passing this bill.

As Senator Dole is a candidate for presidency, he is naturally expected to use such maneuvers to gain the votes of the Israeli Lobby in the United States. However, this is a dangerous game because it harms the U.S. reputation and weakens the position of the United States as a major cosponsor and activator of the current peace process.

A slight amendment to this move will not reduce its seriousness or bad repercussions. This is so because it differs from the previous moves in that it does not set, as a condition, that building of the embassy should begin in 1996. Likewise, the talk about ensuring the freedom of religions and so on will not have much effect because the matter is one of sovereignty, and we do not recognize Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem. This is also the position of the Islamic and Christian worlds.

Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic rights in Jerusalem should be secured and respected, particularly regarding sovereignty. This is because the Jerusalem issue concerns one billion Muslims, and it is difficult to accept turning this issue into a mere election topic in U.S. elections, especially since this position will definitely consolidate the current which basically doubts the U.S. intentions and it will also largely affect the peace process.

I thus believe that the Islamic states and popular organizations should move and express their position on this move. In other words, they should say that this move is unacceptable and that it harms the Arab and Islamic presence and undermines the peace process if there is a real desire to achieve just and satisfactory solutions for everyone. This is so because the Jerusalem issue concerns all parties, and we cannot accept turning it into a mere slogan in U.S. presidential elections. [end recording]

Source Denies $82 Million in U.S. Aid Not Used

JN1410164195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Oct 95 pp 1, 20

[Report by Muhammad Khayr al-Farah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A responsible Finance Ministry source denied reports that the U.S. Government had earmarked $82 million from previous years which Jordan has so far not used.

The source was replying to U.S. sources which said that the United States had earlier allocated $82 million for Jordan but that Jordan had failed to take advantage of it.

The source, who declined to be named, said the United States has written off all of Jordan's debt, which totaled $700 million. There is no sum which has not been drawn. Thus, Jordan has not borrowed the sum of $82 million, nor has the United States earmarked such a figure for Jordan. After the debt cancellation, the figures and accounts were audited and the loan accounts were found to be identical. Thus, all the money drawn out has been canceled. The source added that Jordan used all the money it borrowed. [passage omitted]

Nonresident Iraqis Ordered To Leave

JN1510211595 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 12 Oct 95 pp 1, 24

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman—Jordanian authorities have warned nonresident Iraqis to leave Jordan before 25 October.

The AL-JAZIRAH correspondent received this information from employees working for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees. These employees also pointed out that since the beginning of October the Jordanian security organs have been running a campaign against Iraqis in Jordan. They fear the Iraqi regime may have sent intelligence elements to carry out acts of subversion and terrorism during the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, which will be held in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on 29 October.

It is expected that U.S. President Bill Clinton, European and Arab leaders, and Israeli officials will attend the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

summit. It is noteworthy that Jordanian authorities recently took precautionary measures on the Jordanian-Iraqi border. They have built sand barriers, many control posts, and have sent out Border Guard patrols since granting political asylum to General Husayn Kamil, his brother, and their wives Raghad and Rana, daughters of Saddam Husayn. [passage omitted]

Minister on Economic Ties With Israel, PA, Iraq

JN1410211395 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Oct 95 p 11

[Interview with 'Ali Abu-Al-Raghib, minister of trade and industry, by Khalid al-Zubaydi in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Zubaydi] What about obstacles impeding implementation of the trade agreement between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority [PA]? How can they be eliminated through dialogue with Israel?

[Abu-al-Raghib] The most important obstacle is the issue of the transportation of goods and the steep rates of handling fees. These obstacles are currently being studied, and we will overcome them.

[Al-Zubaydi] What about the Israeli trade agreement? Are there any differences, and will the agreement be implemented?

[Abu-al-Raghib] This agreement will serve many of Jordan's interests: our goods and products will reach the Israeli market, and they will be competitive because of their high quality. The trade agreement will be signed this week. Through this agreement we will achieve several privileges for Jordan and for the Palestinian market which are very important to us. They are basic needs which we cannot afford to ignore. We hope that the Palestinians will rid themselves of the Israeli economic hegemony. As for the Israeli goods that will enter Jordan, we believe that they will only compete with foreign goods and not with our own products. After all, the citizen is free to deal with these products or not to deal with them.

[Al-Zubaydi] Is there a risk that the Jordanian market will be flooded with Israeli goods?

[Abu-al-Raghib] Actually, we cannot say this because there were no trade relations with Israel in the past. However, we believe that our position is very good. A department will be created within the Ministry and it will be entrusted with studying and monitoring the influx of Israeli commodities into the Jordanian market. It will also be in charge with overseeing Jordanian-Israeli trade relations.

[Al-Zubaydi] Do you expect trade to be active in this field, and is there an intention to establish a free trade zone with Israel?

[Abu-al-Raghib] At the moment the idea of a free trade zone with Israel in al-'Aqabah and Elat is being discussed. A tripartite Jordanian-Israeli-Palestinian free zone is also being discussed.

[Al-Zubaydi] Inter-Arab relations are currently witnessing rapprochement. Will this be at the expense of trade relations with Iraq?

[Abu-al-Raghib] Iraq is a principal economic partner for Jordan. This is a well-known fact that will not change. As I said, our Arab principles dictate that nothing will be done at the expense of our relations with Iraq, or with any other Arab state. There is no room for personal opinions on this matter; it is final. We have our own independent policies and they stem from clear pan-Arab principles.

[Al-Zubaydi] What I mean by my question is this: In light of the expected open relations with the Gulf states, will our relations with Iraq be affected, and are the two related in any way, particularly since the world is witnessing negative escalations against Iraq and a tightened embargo following Ekeus' recent report?

[Abu-al-Raghib] We reject the embargo on the Iraqi people, and believe that the basic needs of the Iraqi people should be met. This is a principled stand on our part, and it will remain unchanged. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Fighting Continues Between Israelis, 'Resistance'

Israeli Convoy Ambushed

NC1310065695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Islamic resistance group ambushed an Israeli security convoy on al-'Ayshiyah-al-Khardali Road last night. In a statement, the resistance said the ambush caused many deaths and injuries among the convoy personnel. According to the Islamic resistance statement, the resistance's fire support unit attacked al-'Ayshiyah Barracks, causing many casualties.

AFP cites a Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] source as saying that six Israeli soldiers were wounded in a Hizballah operation. The same source added that an explosive charge went off at 2200 yesterday on the al-Jarmaq-al-'Ayshiyah Road in the central sector as an Israeli patrol passed by. This was followed by a clash involving machine guns and RPG's in which six Israeli soldiers were wounded.

Israelis Bombard Southern Areas

NC1410072595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a recent report from 'Ali Dawud, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Nabatiyah, Israeli artillery has been bombarding Mazra't al-Hamra', the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, the al-Litani river basin, and the areas of Frun and al-Ghanduriyah since 0700 today.

Last night the Israeli forces pounded the al-Mudaynah plain in Kafr Rumman, the outskirts of Habbush, al-Wadi al-Akhdar, al-Jabal al-Rafi', and the al-Tasah basin. The bombardment was accompanied by the dropping of flares. The Resistance retaliated by attacking the al-Suwayda' position.

As a third Israeli soldier died as a result of the latest Resistance ambush, the Israeli leaders have stepped up their threats to Lebanon. The Israeli prime minister and officers visited the occupied border strip and made threats against Lebanon.

In addition, the Israeli forces pounded the Kafr Rumman villages, particularly the al-Madaynah plain. The bombardment focused on Jibal al-Butm, Zibqin, Kafra, Yatar, Haddatha, Haris, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and other areas. The bombardment reached Iqlim al-Tuffah and the western al-Biqa' villages of Maydun, al-Dallafah, Qilya, the al-Jabbur hills, and Abu Rashid, causing fires in projects and olive groves. In retaliation, the Resistance attacked several enemy positions, causing casualties.

More on Bombardment, Overflights

NC1510063595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli forces in Tayr Harfa and al-Rujmayn have bombarded the outskirts of Jibal al-Butm, Kafra, Yatar, Haris, and Haddatha in the western sector with 120—mm and 155—mm shells at the rate of two shells per minute. The bombardment was accompanied by repeated helicopter flights over the area. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon units have closed the roads leading to these areas, where tension has prevailed.

Attack Sends 'Clear Message'

LD1410190895 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Oct. 14, IRNA — A Lebanese Hizballah member, Muhammad Yizbak, on Saturday warned the Zionist regime that if it continued to attack civilian targets, it would encounter retaliatory measures. Yizbak said the Islamic resistance would go on with its military operations until the time that all of the Lebanese territory was liberated, adding that no power was capable of halting Hizballah.

Speaking in Ba'labakk, eastern Lebanon, the Hizballah official said the recent operation which caused the death and injury of ten Zionist agents was a clear message to the US president, Bill Clinton, and the Zionist prime minister, Yitzhaq Rabin.

He said, "Hizballah sees itself in state of an all-out war with the Zionist enemy and any aggression on civilian targets would be followed with reprisals."

'Resistance' Claims 9 Israeli Casualties

NC1510072495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0647 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This is just in from our security correspondent Ja'far:

[Begin recording] The Islamic Resistance operations room reported a short while ago that when a Zionist force was advancing toward the hills of western al-Biqa' this morning, it encountered an ambush by the Islamic Resistance mujahidin. A clash ensued between the two sides during which at least nine Zionists were killed or wounded. Israeli helicopters immediately interceded to evacuate the casualties. Israeli warplanes are currently flying over the area and staging mock raids over Abu-Rashid, al-Surayrah, and al-Dallafah in western al-Biqa'. [end recording]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

'Resistance' Claims Attack

NC1510102295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Five Israeli soldiers were killed and three others were wounded, one seriously, at dawn today when an explosive device went off as an Israeli patrol was travelling in Mazra'at Khallat al-Khazin near al-'Ayshiyah, inside the occupied border strip. An Israeli military spokesman confirmed that five Israeli soldiers were killed and three others were wounded in the blast.

The Islamic Resistance released a statement today in which it claimed responsibility for the blast. It said that the operation left 11 Israeli soldiers dead or wounded.

Israeli warplanes are currently flying over the Abu Rashid hills, al-Surayrah, and Maydun and are dropping thermal balloons to avoid missiles.

More on Ambush Casualties

NC1510115795 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese security agencies in Marj 'Uyun have stated that the death toll in the ambush Hizballah laid for an Israeli patrol in the south at dawn today reached six dead and two wounded. According to an earlier count, five Israeli soldiers were killed and two others were wounded in the ambush that was laid near al-Rayhan in the eastern sector. The sources said that the Israeli army has sent reinforcements to the area via the al-Mtullah crossing point. It consists of 10 artillery pieces, five Merkava tanks, and two armored personnel carriers.

The Resistance declared that it laid an ambush in the (Shbil) area near Mazra't al-Qatranah for an Israeli mechanized and foot patrol at 0540 today. The ambush began by detonating an explosive device near the Israeli patrol followed by a clash with machine guns and rockets, which left at least 11 Israeli soldiers dead or injured. Israeli helicopters intervened immediately to evacuate the casualties.

Leader on 'Resistance' Operation

NC1510145895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah Secretary General Hasan Nasrallah has reiterated that the Islamic Resistance has taken the initiative while the enemy is in a state of horror and confusion. Nasrallah called on the resistance fighters to be prepared to face any eventualities. He pointed out that the resistance is capable of penetrating the enemy's security and military lines.

Nasrallah's remarks were made in the wake of the operation that the resistance fighters carried out near al-'Ayshiyah early today. The operation left six Israeli soldiers dead and two others wounded.

Extension of President's Term Viewed

Ministers Favor Extension

NC1310172895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The consultations held at the prime minister's home today were attended by 21 ministers. The following ministers failed to attend: 'Ali al-Khalil, Anwar al-Khalil, Fu'ad Sinyurah, Yasin Jabir, Mahmud Abu-Hamdan, Nadim Salim, Walid Junblatt, and Qabalan 'Isa al-Khuri.

After the meeting, Michel al-Murr, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, said that the Council of Ministers will meet on Monday [16 October] morning. The ministers will discuss the amendment to the constitution extending the president's term. Al-Murr noted that the ministers have a consensus in favor of the extension.

Patriarch Criticizes Extension

NC1610074895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In his Sunday sermon yesterday, Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr implicitly criticized the bid to extend President Ilyas al-Hirawi's term in office.

[Begin Sfayr recording] [passage omitted] The Constitution is being amended to extend the president's term from six years to nine years. Who can trust Lebanese laws anymore? What prestige is there for a president whose [second] term in office will be cut in half [instead of amending the Constitution to allow for a second six-year term]?

The Constitution is being violated and amended without a national need for it. What guarantees remain for the Lebanese citizen when his Constitution is liable to be amended at any moment, with great ease, by a foreign decision, contrary to the will of the displaced Lebanese people? All this is an indication that the democratic system is dying. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Franjiyah's Bloc for Extension

NC1610070895 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 16 Oct 95

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[FBIS Translated Text] The Independent National Parliamentary Bloc led by Deputy Sulayman Franjiyah has supported the extension of the president's term. At a meeting yesterday, the bloc expressed the hope that the coming phase will be one of openness and cooperation and that officials will work for the homeland's interest on the basis of solidarity and tackling all political, economic, social, and financial problems. The bloc said the march of detente and peace must continue in cooperation with Syria at this historic juncture.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Government Delegates Attack Israel at Conference

TA1110174695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At a preparatory meeting in Brussels for the Barcelona conference, Syrian representatives vehemently attacked Israel, justified Hizballah activities, and attempted to include a condemnation of the bombings in Lebanon into the convention's concluding proposal.

The Barcelona conference on regional cooperation between European states and Mediterranean countries will be held at the end of next month.

Al-Asad Remarks, 'Resistance' Operations Viewed

JN1410094495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In a commentary on the peace process, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses Israel's role which is obstructing this process. The paper says: Israel has never sought to achieve the set objective of a just and comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds: One can easily discover Israel's intransigence and refusal to respond to the requirements of the peace process in terms of its non-commitment to total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

The paper continues: Leader al-Asad explained that the peace process is actually suffering from stalemate and dormancy due to Israel's tricks and procrastination in terms of responding to the requirements of a just peace. The peace process is also suffering from Israel's non-commitment to the bases of peace. In an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM, al-Asad said that in the past four years not a single step forward has been achieved.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Israeli rulers did not hesitate to give more proof of their intention not to move the peace process from its dormancy as a prelude to pushing it toward its agreed objective — namely, a just and comprehensive peace. In a statement carried by Israeli radio two days ago, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin reiterated that Israel will not withdraw to the 1967 borders and that it will continue to consider greater Jerusalem as its capital under Israeli sovereignty, as he put it.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: The Israeli leaders are deluded if they think the regional crisis can be resolved before they yield to the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace as is stipulated in the U.S. initiative, which is the basis of the peace process. These requirements are led by the Israeli rulers' open and clear commitment to full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, particularly the Golan and southern Lebanon, and the return to the 4 June 1967 lines.

The newspaper TISHRIN today comments on the reactions and statements of Israeli officials in the wake of the Lebanese national resistance operation carried out two days ago, in which three Israeli soldiers were killed.

The paper says: Occupation is to blame. National resistance is a natural result of occupation. This established fact is known by everyone and by the Israelis themselves. However, the Israelis, as always, bury their heads in the sand and sometimes level accusations against Syria and the Lebanese Government. They deliberately mention Syria by name because Syria could not be entrapped by their schemes and also because it rejected their lame partial solutions and insisted on a just and comprehensive regional peace which will lead to complete withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Golan and southern Lebanon.

TISHRIN notes that Syria has frequently explained that it was not at all affected by threats and that it does not pay attention to falsehoods. This is because occupation is the stimulus, so when the occupation is withdrawn from southern Lebanon the stimulus will be removed, and calm and security will prevail in the region.

The paper adds: Israel has willingly chosen the policy of occupation and confrontation. There are no people in the world who accept occupation of their land and expulsion of their citizens while standing idly by. If Israel is looking forward to calm and security, all that it has to do is implement the Security Council resolutions and withdraw its occupation forces. This is because occupation and security do not coexist. All past events have shown that Israel's threats and attacks have always been counterproductive.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The death of some Israeli soldiers two days ago should make the Israeli leaders see realities. However, these officials were blindfolded by greed and by craving for aggression and expansion. Otherwise, these leaders would have responded to the will of just peace, withdrawn from the occupied Arab territories, and given the region an opportunity to achieve security and stability.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Press: Amman Economic Summit To 'Reward' Israel

JN1010214395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today, TISHRIN discusses the forthcoming Amman summit. The paper says: There is a lot of talking now about the economic summit, scheduled to be held at the end of this month in Amman. In order to promote this event, certain parties seek to coat it with beautiful words and impressive slogans to cover the real substance of this summit and its true objectives.

TISHRIN adds: Israel is the party that championed the idea of such summits and it organized the first economic summit, which convened in Morocco.

TISHRIN says: The Rabin Government considers this summit an advanced step to provide the necessary conditions to expand the Zionist influence in the Arab region and to establish a so-called new Middle East under Israel's command.

TISHRIN warns against the dangers of such a step, saying this summit will inflict grave damage to the march of genuine peace in the region. It says: Instead of pressuring Israel and forcing it to accept the requirements of the just and comprehensive settlement, the Amman summit will provide a reward to Israel by seeking to end the Arab boycott and open Arab borders to the Zionist economic and cultural invasion. This will increase the Israeli intransigence and aggressive greed and encourage the Rabin's government to stick to its current positions which are hostile to peace.

TISHRIN stresses that the Rabin government has sabotaged the march of the just and comprehensive peace, torpedoed the Madrid formula, evaded the land-for-peace formula, and departed from the principles of the U.S. initiative.

TISHRIN says: Instead of punishing the Rabin government for these acts which are hostile to peace, the Amman summit comes to provide generous rewards for Israel's aggressive and expansionist plans.

Addressing those who are promoting the Amman summit, TISHRIN says: The Amman summit will not be any different from the Morocco summit. This is because the Israeli objective remains unchanged, because the Israeli policy has grown wilder, and because the Arabs now realize that Israel seeks to use such summits to try to fragment and impoverish the Arab homeland. No sane person will allow a bear to enter his vineyard to wreck and destroy it.

Israel Warned Not To Underestimate Resolve

JN1410161495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1236 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli officials are wrong if they think they can continue playing the game of shuffling cards, exercising the policy of procrastination, and evading the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace. The facts are evident to all. President Hafiz al-Asad made them even clearer in his recent important statement to the Cairo-based AL-AHRAM newspaper, when he defined the nature of the dilemma the peace process is undergoing due to Israel's intransigent positions. Israel is evading a peace decision and is pursuing maneuvers and deception to waste time without making any real progress on carrying out the Security Council resolutions and the will of the international community, which seeks to achieve security and stability for the welfare of peoples in the region and in the entire world.

In the four years since the peace process began with the opening of the Madrid conference, one can define a number of facts from President Hafiz al-Asad's comprehensive statements in which he made things absolutely clear with regard to many issues that are unknown to Arab and international public opinions.

The first of these facts is that Israel wants to negotiate for the sake of negotiations, and to hold meetings for the sake of holding meetings, in order to realize two objectives at once. The first is to play on the various tracks in the same manner that enabled Israel to trick the Jordanian and Palestinian sides into falling in the trap of concluding separate deals and signing partial and incomplete transactions. The second is to mislead public opinion and create an Arab and international atmosphere that would make others believe that the peace process is fine and on the right track.

This, in turn, brings us to the second fact that lays bare an objective which is one of the most dangerous of the goals Israel has sought to realize so far in the current peace process. Israel, which is evading the requirements of peace—foremost of which is full withdrawal—is looking for gains at the expense of the Arab parties. In return for secure and militarily reinforced borders, Israel is looking for Arab borders that are open economically, politically, and culturally. It is also looking for a normalization of relations that will transform the region into satellite states revolving in an Israeli orbit. This is in line with the concept of Middle Easternism, by which they seek to wipe out the Arab identity, negate Arabism, and kill all feelings related to such matters.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The third fact proceeds from the previous ones; namely, that Israel, which takes into its negotiatory calculations blackmailing the Arabs and pushing them into making concessions, is thinking about swallowing the territories that are under its occupation or the ones it can bargain on. It is also thinking about concluding agreements such as Oslo and Wadi al-'Araba agreements, which were formulated in such a manner as to match the Israeli terms and are implemented according to the Israeli interpretations and disposition.

The fourth fact has to do with Israel's approach which harms the credibility of peace and the U.S. efforts that have so far failed to make Israel submit to international legitimacy and respond to the requirements of peace on land-for-peace principle. All of this means that Israel believes that the current peace process is merely an opportunity to achieve its goals. If they are realized Israel will win; otherwise, it has nothing to lose, especially since it possesses the means to obstruct any progress on the peace tracks.

This, in turn, leads us to a serious fact, namely, that Israel is seeking to seize control of the situation in the region in a manner that would suit its ambitions and objectives of exercising hegemony and control. This requires caution, not just on the part of Syria, which knows Israel's tactics and how to deal with them, but also on the part of some Arabs who are deceived by the Israeli peace. These Arabs have no consideration whatsoever for pan-Arab interests and feelings. They rush to normalize relations, strike deals, and hold meetings between Israeli officials and those who have lost their willpower.

Leader al-Asad has asserted that Syria will continue to support peace. However, Syria will not tolerate being underestimated. It is out of the question for Syria, regardless of changes and irrespective of the results, to do something contrary to its beliefs or undertake anything that contravenes our pan-Arab interests. If what we want is made available, then there will be peace; otherwise, we will remain as we are. Time and elections here or there will not be instruments of pressure on Syria, which has confidence in itself, its people, and the Arab nation.

Radio: 'New Middle East' Serves Israeli Interests

JN1310174195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Since the launching of the peace process, the term "new Middle East" has been much vaunted by politicians, observers, and the media. By this term, they mostly want to refer to a region free of conflict and violence, where peace will prevail—a region that is governed by the considerations of welfare and progress. But the Israeli rulers consider the term as something suitable with which to impose their control on the region and propagate their ideas and plans without abiding by the requirements of the peace process, led by full withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, implementing the Security Council resolutions, and entrenching the international law as the sole terms of reference for resolving differences and disputes.

Under the pretext of the new Middle East, successive invitations were made to conferences that group countries of the region together with the aim of normalizing Arab-Israeli relations and approving regional cooperation plans, whether in the economic, development, agricultural, or water fields. Israel has been at the forefront of leading these conferences and presenting its concepts and projects, which, if implemented, would make Israel the economic, technological, scientific, and commercial hub of the region. Although Syria and Lebanon boycotted these conferences, many countries and quarters participated in them—whether willingly or unwillingly—due to external pressures.

Preparations are under way for the Amman conference at present. The most prominent topic of the conference is the establishment of a Middle East development bank. If we review the facts of ancient and modern history, we always see that economic cooperation between two disputing parties comes after the establishment of peace between them. As for the case of the Arabs and Israel, economic cooperation precedes the peace process, and is meant to precede the peace process because, simply, it is a new form of hegemony, and because the peace they seek to impose has nothing to do with peace, and is not in line with the resolutions of the Security Council and the principle of full withdrawal from the occupied territories.

In his interview with Cairo AL-AHRAM, President Hafiz al-Asad exposed the term of new Middle East when he said it is an attempt to obliterate the Arabism of the Arab area and eradicate its identity, culture, and civilization. The Arabs have been the masters of region since the dawn of history. Israel is the transient party. Therefore, it is impossible to deal with the Arabs and Israel equally, or allow Israel to toy with the fate of the region, shape its history, distort its identity, or impose its hegemony on it. Thus, Syria's firm and principled position calls for a just and comprehensive peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles of international law. As a result, Syria's position rejects any presence of the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israeli occupation, no matter how small or limited this presence seems to be. The Golan, southern Lebanon, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip are Arab territories and are part of Arab history. Therefore, there is no bargaining on the future of these territories or their Arab population. Israel cannot impose its plans on the region. The Arabs are the owners of the land and the decisionmakers. Cooperation between the peoples of the region is cooperation between one people. Israel has no right to control this cooperation or be a full partner in it, as it is seeking to do so now.

It is enough to have a look at the conditions in the occupied Arab territories to feel clearly Israel's short- and long-term objectives. Israel controls the resources of the West Bank. It has seized West Bank water in favor of Zionist settlers and prevented any progress for industry and agriculture in it [by Palestinians]. The Palestinians became the hired hands of the Israelis, and could only consume Israeli commodities. Under the pretext of regional cooperation and the term new Middle East, Israel wants to share Arab water resources with the Arabs, open their markets for its goods, and link their economies to its plans and projects. It wants all this without withdrawing from the occupied territories or meeting any requirements of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Syria, as President Hafiz al-Asad said, will never embark on any step that conflicts with its convictions or the higher interests of the nation, and will never be drawn to Israel's plans. Syria adheres to just peace as an unshakable objective from which it will not deviate—even for one inch. Syria adheres to a peace that preserves the Arab identity of the land and the region and the deep- rooted Arab rights in them since the dawn of history.

Israeli Accountability for Palestinians Demanded

JN1310183595 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 10 Oct 95 p 3

["With the Events" column by Jibarah al-Barghuthi: "The Self-Rule Authority and the Lack of Patriotism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In August and September, Israel arrested 650 Palestinians on various fabricated charges. Among those arrested were mothers and sisters of men wanted by the occupation authorities. Moreover, Israeli interrogation elements have killed three Palestinians in prison cells that were described by Amnesty International committees as centers of harsh torture unfit for human beings.

At present, Israel is freeing 1,000 Palestinian prisoners in accordance with the Taba accord. If the release of this number of prisoners has taken so much time and effort, as manifested in the countless secret and announced meetings held between the Palestinians and Israelis, how then would Israel allow the Palestinian self-rule areas, whose borders it controls, to repatriate thousands of Palestinians it has displaced with its fascist and racist methods?

It is worth noting that Israel has thus far failed to provide real figures regarding the number of the prisoners it has held in order to evade accountability for the crimes it has committed against hundreds of missing Palestinians. In spite of this, the very limited self-rule authority has failed to ask Israel to reveal the whereabouts of those detained over the past two decades who have remained unaccounted for. It has failed to ask the occupation authorities to provide the names and whereabouts of the Palestinians captured in Beirut, Sidon, and Tyre during the Israeli aggression on Lebanon 13 years ago.

Israel has demanded the extradition of Abu-Marzuq, who is held in custody in the United States. By contrast, the self-rule authority is not demanding that the Israelis who perpetrated the massacres committed at the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard, in Ramleh, and at the Janin Girls School be extradited to the self-rule areas. The self-rule authority has not demanded the trial of the Israeli officers, such as Ari'el Sharon, who killed 5,000 Palestinian prisoners of war in Gaza and more in Sabra and Shatila.

The real criminal is the one who is occupying others' territory and displacing the population. As for those who fail to rehabilitate the blood of their people, they are criminals against their own people. This applies to the self-rule authority, whose behavior is marked by callousness, shortsightedness, and lack of patriotism.

As long as Israel continues to apprehend people and kill those it apprehends, pursue patriots, and punish their mothers and sisters, peace deals will remain unviable and unenforceable, particularly since Rabin has declared that the Zionist occupation will remain intact and that there will be no Palestinian state.

Radio Commentary Urges Change in Israel Stand

JN1010213795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1232 GMT 10 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Within the framework of continuous consultations between the two sisterly countries, Syria and Egypt, President Husni Mubarak arrived in Damascus today to hold talks with President Hafiz al-Asad on developments in the peace process and the Arab situation. Not too long ago, Presidents al-Asad and Mubarak held talks in Cairo, which

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

basically focused on ending the deterioration in the Arab situation

There is no doubt that consultations between the two great Arab leaders, which have become a tradition in Syrian-Egyptian relations, represent a ray of light in the current Arab reality. Syria and Egypt are the nation's wings and backbone and are the main basis for any joint Arab action.

It is clear that attention is being focused on Damascus after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington. U.S. President Clinton said that the peace process cannot be complete without Syria's and Lebanon's participation. Indeed, James Baker, a former senior official in the U.S. Administration, clearly said that all the concluded agreements have no value without Syria. Syria is the basis and there can be no peace in the region without its participation and approval. The path to peace with Syria is represented by Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Golan. Moreover, President Husni Mubarak said more than once that peace with Syria depends on Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan.

News Agencies have reported from Washington that President Clinton is ready to offer every possible effort to activate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks and that he will send his Secretary of State Christopher to the Middle East for this purpose at the end of this month.

The Syrian Foreign Minister's invitation to visit Washington and his recent talks with U.S. officials is within the framework of efforts to activate the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. It is well known that Syria expressed reservation on partial agreements because they do not lead to the desired just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Syria adhered to the agreed upon bases of the peace process. These are UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle in addition to the U.S. pledge to secure a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

When we examine the gap between the Syrian and Israeli stands, we clearly sense that it is a result of Syria's adherence to the UN Security Council resolutions and Israel's attempt to bypass and ignore these resolutions in order to reach an agreement that entrenches the Israeli military presence in part of the Golan under a security pretext or what Tel Aviv calls early warning stations on the ground. Syria firmly rejects this, saying that UN Security Council resolutions are frank and do not allow any form of occupation. Moreover, Syria stresses that bilateral talks depend on Israel's commitment to a full withdrawal and its abandonment of its impossible demands which contradict the essence of peace and UN resolutions.

From this premise, activating the Syrian and Lebanese tracks requires a change in the Israeli stand and U.S. pressure in this direction. Syria will not bargain over its territories and adheres to Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan and its forces' withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. Sisterly Egypt and the Arabs support Syria's just and legitimate demand. Hence, President Mubarak's talks with President al-Asad in Damascus are very important. These talks affirm Syrian-Egyptian solidarity and the need to enhance the Arab situation until a situation in which concern for the nation's interests — particularly safeguarding land, rights, and dignity — prevails.

Papers Underline Government Position on Peace

JN1010213095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 10 Oct 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-THAWRAH discusses Syria's firm, principled position on peace in the region. The papers says: Syria has a sound and correct position and is very confident about its genuine pan-Arab course, which insists on regaining all rights and lands and refuses to enter into any bargaining that infringes on sovereignty and dignity.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that peace can only be established on the basis of equitability, equality, and justice. It also stresses that the incomplete, partial solutions will not bring peace or achieve stability.

In its editorial today, AL-BA'TH focuses on the principles of the just and comprehensive peace in the region. The paper says: Syria looks forward to, and seeks with all sincerity and honesty to achieve just and comprehensive peace. This kind of peace is based on UN resolutions, international legitimacy, and the land-for-peace formula and will return to each party its rights and end all hotbeds of tension and explosion and all forms of aggression and occupation. Meanwhile, Israel, both its government and its parties, seeks to achieve its own kind of peace, the peace of separate deals and partial settlements, that would allow it to maintain occupation and the usurpation of Arab rights, to confiscate rights, and to gain, at the same time, the benefits of peace, such as the recognition of its existence and hegemony over the resources of the Arab homeland, both now and in the future.

AL-BA'TH stresses that the Rabin government has reached the conviction that it cannot in any way push

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria and Lebanon to its distorted and incomplete concept of peace, epitomized in the self-rule agreement and the Wadi al-'Arabah accord. Therefore, it has decided not to arrive at a peace agreement with Syria. AL-BA'TH says: If this position is real, or is a mere test balloon, it will not harm or bother Syria since Syria is not in a hurry.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The peace which Syria seeks is the peace of justice and comprehensiveness. Such a peace cannot be attained through pressure, terrorism, and threats.

Israel Seen 'Procrastinating' on Taba Accord

JN0910185195 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Oct 95 p 3

["With the Events" column by Salih Salih: "Ominous Start for Taba Accord"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Voice of Palestine Radio, which transmits from the self-rule area of Jericho, yesterday stopped its transmission for 24 hours on the Day of Atonement [Yom Kippur]. It claimed to have done that for maintenance purposes.

The Palestinian Authority's celebration of Jewish holidays is just the beginning. The self-rule authority has immediately begun implementing the clauses of the agreement signed in Washington on 28 September. Under the agreement, the self-rule authority must collect the weapons of Palestinians, prevent threats and acts of violence against the settlers and ensure their peace of mind, and totally submit to the decisions and wishes of the occupation authorities.

In the meantime, the Israeli Government is still procrastinating, maneuvering, and creating excuses to evade implementation. Thus, it referred the agreement to the Knesset to start a tug-of-war between the Rabin government and the right-wing opposition.

Those who are watching this game know that the fate of the agreement depends on the vote of one member from the Yehud Party. If this member does not vote for the agreement, then it will not be implemented, and then there will be a constitutional problem and the Rabin government will probably have to resign.

The Israeli Knesset will hold its extraordinary or "historic" session, as Refa'el Eytan claimed, because the fate of the Middle East depends on Knesset Member Alex Goldfarb, who has not yet decided whether to vote for or against the agreement.

What a wonderful show of "democracy" which they project to the world in a carefully planned manner. Thus, the media would cover the activities of the right-wing extremists, who performed prayers for the death of their Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. This will be, of course, after they have wiped out the Arabs or expelled them all outside Palestine.

A week has passed without any signs on the horizon that Israel is serious about implementing the agreement or part of it. The male and female prisoners have not been released; the West Bank and Gaza are still closed, which turned the life of more than 2 million Palestinians into hell; and the Israeli army has not done anything to indicate that it will withdraw from the areas agreed upon.

If this is the beginning between Israel and the Palestinian Authority after one week of the agreement, then how will the end be? We have to wait and see. After all, those who signed the agreement themselves were not optimistic about the results.

Israeli Attacks, 'Incomplete' Accords Viewed

JN0910161695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0540 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] TISHRIN comments on the continued Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon, asserting that these attacks contradict the desire for peace and the Security Council resolution. In addition, these attacks reveal Israel's ingrained hostile spirit.

The paper adds: Had Israel been searching for peace, as its rulers claim, it would have sought to maintain calm in southern Lebanon and demonstrate that it has no expansionist ambitions in Lebanon and Syria. Israel would also have expressed readiness for full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines in return for a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN says the purpose of Israel's brutal attacks on southern Lebanon is to put pressure on the Lebanese to make them dissociate themselves from Syria. Israel's attacks, however, will lead to completely opposite results. These attacks consolidate Lebanese-Syrian cooperation and bolster the resolve to oppose aggression and face Israel with a unified stand.

The paper says Israel has never brought anything to Lebanon and its people except destruction and death. It is the cause of the Lebanese people's infighting, disintegration, and death.

The paper concludes that Israel's schemes will fail today and tomorrow, just as they failed in the past. Syria and Lebanon are one people. What hurts Syria hurts Lebanon and the opposite holds true. These attacks will only make the Syrians and Lebanese more convinced

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that Israel and peace are completely antithetical, and that there is no alternative to the coalescence of the two peoples and countries and the support of the Lebanese resistance by all possible means.

AL-BA'TH asserts that incomplete agreements can never be generalized, since they do not achieve a just and comprehensive peace. The paper refers to the first and second Oslo agreements between the limited self-rule authority and Israel. These agreements have not achieved the objectives for which the Palestinian Arab people have struggled for a long time. However, these agreements achieved for Israel most of what it has dreamed of. This was stated clearly by Shim'on Peres at the signing ceremony of the second Oslo agreement in Washington. Peres said: The dream has come true.

The paper says the two agreements have consolidated the occupation of Palestinian land, since they maintained this occupation. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said after the signing ceremony that 70 percent of the West Bank territory will remain under Israeli control. This, the paper says, is good evidence that the occupation of the West Bank has remained, but this time with the approval of the self-rule authority.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Now that Israel has made these achievements, it wants to conclude agreements with Syria and Lebanon that resemble the incomplete, partial agreements it signed with some Arab parties. Syria and Lebanon have rejected this and said that this is impossible, whatever the circumstances. Therefore, Israel began to level accusations against Syria, trying to blame it for the stalemate in the peace talks, although the whole world knows that Syria was the one that opened the doors of peace. Syria says that the only condition for peace is for it to be just and comprehensive.

The paper concludes: When Syria asserts this, it does not make impossible demands, as is the case with Israel. Syria's position is completely concordant with international legitimacy and its resolutions. Since the Madrid conference, Syria has not changed its position.

Success of Damascus-Lebanon Track Underscored

JN0810195995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: No one who has been following the lengthy peace process has any more doubts that peace and occupation cannot coexist. This is one of the most important fundamentals of peace acknowledged by Syria, which is responding to peace efforts and is sincerely dealing with everything that will advance it toward its desired objective. Israel alone has shown intransigence, tried to avoid facts and principles, and behaved with the mentality of a wise guy who can put together two contradictions. Israel came up with a deal that embodies the standards of its own brand of settlement and conditions that are unjust to the Arab people in general and the Palestinian Arab people in particular. Other than to dilute the Palestine question and water down the conflict, Israel's main concern is to penetrate the Arab arena by extending bridges of political, economic, and cultural relations, and implementing new schemes to exercise hegemony over the region and its resources through new methods. This means tearing up the region's pan-Arab fabric and changing its identity under the umbrella of a new Middle East.

People from near and far sense that the bright lights and the clamor that surrounded the signing of the Oslo and Taba agreements is no match for the sorrow that prevailed among the Palestinians in the occupied and besieged West Bank and Gaza Strip and in the diaspora. Indignation prevailed as the Palestinian people watched a fake ceremony to celebrate an agreement that maintained for Israel its occupation of the Arab territories and provided the Palestinian people with nothing more than frustration.

What is serious about the Israeli stand — which, of course, is based on the self-rule authority's willingness to offer concessions — is that Israeli officials now feel that they can achieve new successes in their policy of blackmail. The other tracks are being obstructed. They, as the whole world realizes, are not secondary tracks. U.S. President Bill Clinton expressed this fact when he stressed the importance of activating the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

With respect to the U.S. efforts, which are increasing their pace to spur the Syrian track, it is best to reiterate that from the beginning Syria responded to the U.S. land-for-peace initiative. This initiative translates the resolutions of international legitimacy and the will of the international community, all of which affirm Syria's stand that proceeds from the fact that it is impossible for occupation and peace to coexist.

The entire world knows that were it not for Syria, the Madrid conference would not have originally been held under the intransigence of Yitzhaq Shamir's government and its conditions and obstacles, which former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker recently revealed in his memoirs.

For four years, the peace process witnessed many Israeli obstacles and mines to particularly evade the issue of withdrawal. This actually confirms the reason behind

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the progress achieved on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks and the obstruction and stalemate in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

One cannot talk about a just and comprehensive peace without a full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders and a full withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Even Israel's security pretexts can no longer withstand the facts posed by the issue of security arrangements, which either apply to both sides or do not. Therefore, they are arrangements that cannot but be based on the bases of equitability [takafu'], equality [tasawi], parallelism [tawazi], and evenness [ta'adul], and without any encroachment on the principle of national sovereignty on the ground.

These are the facts of peace, and this is its goal. Will the efforts to activate the Syrian track and render the talks within this track a success move in the direction of peace, or will Israel still be able to obstruct?

Israel 'Not Mature Enough' To Make Peace Decision

JN0610150295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1244 GMT 6 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' will today resume his talks with U.S. officials on the means of propelling the peace process on the Syrian-Israeli track. Al-Shar' yesterday held talks with Secretary Christopher concerning this issue. It was agreed to resume contacts to find the best means to extract the peace process from deadlock and advance talks on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The Israeli position is extremely intransigent. Thus the role of the U.S. sponsor and partner is great in terms of urging Israel to respect international resolutions and to adhere to the Madrid conference foundations with the aim of establishing a just and comprehensive peace based on these foundations and the land-for-peace principle.

It is known that Israel's policy concentrates on containing resolutions of international legitimacy and bypassing them, if possible, as it did with the Palestinian side in the successive Oslo agreements, which did not provide for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied Arab territories. It only stipulated a redeployment of these troops. These accords did not enable the Palestinians to exercise their right to self-determination on their land. Rather, they subjected the Palestinians to direct Israeli custodianship.

Israel sought to consecrate its military presence in the occupied Syrian Golan through ground observation posts and under feeble security pretexts. Syria, from the outset, vehemently rejected these proposals based on the terms of reference of the Security Council resolutions, which served as the groundwork for the U.S. initiative and the peace process. Full peace hinges on full Israeli withdrawal. Modern air surveillance can replace dozens of ground posts.

Syria, to facilitate the U.S. mission and to demonstrate its genuine peace intentions, dispatched the chief of staff of its army twice to Washington for military talks and a discussion of all security arrangements. However, Israel did not go back on its deceptive policy and haughtiness and continued to place obstacles and hurdles to the progress of the Syrian track. It also escalated its acts of aggression against Lebanon as if publicly announcing that peace in the region can be made only according to its conditions and that all Security Council provisions are worthless to it. In light of these impossible conditions and wicked intentions, Syria had no option but to suspend talks and maintain its contacts with the United States, in its capacity as the sponsor of the peace process.

Today, there are no signs the intransigent Israel position has changed. On the contrary, all indications show that Israel is not mature enough to make the decision of peace and that Zionist extremism still finds constant support inside Israel. This behooves the United States to apply pressure on Israel and to declare that its assistance to Israel is contingent on a real Israeli drift toward peace.

Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was not wrong when he warned that the overall peace process is threatened with collapse if the current stalemate on the Syria and Israeli tracks persists.

Syria is for a just and comprehensive peace. However, it will not cede a single inch of the occupied Golan to Israel, nor will it bargain on the principle of Israel's full pullout beyond the 4 June 1967 lines or the principle of security equitability [takafu']. Syria will never accept any presence of occupation, no matter how small or limited. It will never be dragged into partial accords or agree to bypassing Security Council resolutions and overlooking the international terms of reference. Israel alone should change its policy and positions. Without full withdrawal and abandoning the schemes of occupation and hegemony, there is no hope, whatsoever, that real, solid peace can prevail in the Middle East.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Peace With Occupation Called 'Impossible'

JN0810172195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH discusses Israel's responsibility for the stagnation which the regional peace process is suffering from.

The paper asserts that the world public opinion is strongly convinced that peace will not be achieved in the region without Syria and Lebanon. For peace to be established, there should be full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. This means withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines, as well as unconditional implementation of Resolution 425.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria accepted the peace initiative in accordance with the clear land-for-peace basis. It joined the rounds of negotiations on this basis. Syria is well aware that it is waging a battle which is no less important than armed battles.

The paper asserts that the battle of peace should end with liberation of the land and restoral of all usurped rights. It holds Israel responsible for the current stagnation in the peace process as a result of its intransigence and adherence to the pretext of security arrangements. Israel has demanded that it have a presence in the Golan under the cover of early warning stations—which Syria has categorically rejected.

AL-BA'TH believes that if the stalemate of the peace process is to end, Israel must commit itself to the provisions of the peace initiative, return to the minutes of negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and declare its commitment to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Under the headline "Facts," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, which from the very beginning responded to the U.S. initiative stemming from the land-for-peace principle—which actually represents the resolutions of international legitimacy and the will of the international community—emphasizes that it is impossible to have occupation and peace at the same time.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The whole world knows that without Syrian participation, the Madrid conference would not have convened in the first place, in view of the Yitzhaq Shamir government's intransigence, terms, and obstacles. These obstacles were recently revealed in the book written by James Baker, former U.S. secretary of state.

The paper explains that the Israeli obstacles and mines, designed to evade withdrawal in particular, are the actual reason behind the obstruction and stalemate on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. At the same time, they are the reason behind the progress achieved on the Jordanian and Palestinian tracks.

AL-THAWRAH emphasizes that without full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon, there cannot be talk of a just and comprehensive peace. The paper asserts that security arrangements should be based on equitability [al-takafu'], equality [al-tasawi], parallelism [al-tawazi], and evenness [al-ta'adul] without harming the principle of national sovereignty over land.

In another comment, AL-THAWRAH says: The Syrian position on peace is principled and consistent. It is also based on rights, justice, and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

The paper asserts that Syrian-U.S. talks aimed to put matters in their proper place, and search for the best formulas to resume negotiations on the Syrian track. This stems from the common interest in promoting the peace process and achieving results rather than negotiating for the sake of negotiations.

AL-THAWRAH believes that such results should be in line with international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle. It asserts that the U.S. Administration and peace team were strongly convinced that the Syrian position is consistent and principled.

Concluding its comment, the paper emphasizes that no one can isolate Syria or impose an incomplete peace on it, which conflicts with the resolutions of international legitimacy. Israel should realize that no peace will be achieved without fully returning the dear Golan and southern Lebanon.

The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the Israeli siege imposed on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It says: Signs and facts indicate that the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is being subjected to further aggravation and turmoil. This is because the Palestinians considered what happened in Taba, as well as the propagandistic media ceremony in Washington to sign the second part of the Oslo agreement, as false manifestations for achieving peace, or at least for meeting the simple, modest, minimal requirements of normal life on Palestinian territory.

TISHRIN adds: Israel is slowing down the implementation of the second part of the Oslo agreement in terms of redeployment, releasing the Palestinian detainees, and stopping the continued encroachments and provocative acts carried out by the settlers against Arab citizens.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: While adhering to its policy hostile to peace, Israel reveals that it only wants fragile agreements that will consolidate its occupation and legitimize the continued presence of its settlements, as well as spread Israeli control and hegemony, liquidate the Palestinian people's national and pan-Arab rights to their land and existence, and threaten their future and destiny.

The paper adds: While tampering with and circumventing the principles of peace, Israel does not conceal its acknowledgement that there are no sacred timetables and dates even regarding the implementation of these fragile agreements and deals, which came into being only after the Palestinian negotiator yielded to the Israeli negotiator's terms and diktat.

TISHRIN continues: This outcome has revealed that the weak points in the Palestinian side were exploited by Israel, and became elements of strength and pressure in favor of occupation, which can now do whatever it likes, whenever it wishes.

The paper says: Otherwise, what is the meaning of the continued Israeli siege of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and its perpetuation for weeks at a time when the ink on the Taba agreement is not yet dried?

Al-Khuri on Damascus-Beirut Cooperation

JN0610134695 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 8

[Interview with Nasri al-Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council, by Michel Khayyat; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khayyat] We have witnessed intensive Syrian-Lebanese meetings during the past few weeks to discuss vital topics on scientific, economic, and agricultural cooperation. Has this anything to do with the imminent date of the Follow-Up and Coordination Commission's third session?

[Al-Khuri] Meetings are held constantly within the framework of the different joint Syrian-Lebanese technical committees, which discuss topics that are submitted to them and make the necessary recommendations before referring them to the ministerial committees.

[Khayyat] When will the commission meet? Will it also add new agreements to the ones signed and ratified in September 1993, and which in fact were enriched through such contacts and meetings?

[Al-Khuri] The Follow-Up and Coordination Commission should have met some time ago, but it has been delayed a little for some urgent and objective reasons. We are in the process of preparing for the third session and the many agreements we hope will be signed during it. We hope that it will take place soon.

[Khayyat] We all know that the first session of the Follow-Up and Coordination Commission led to economic, agricultural, health, and tourism agreements stemming from the spirit of the Treaty of Fraternity, Cooperation, and Coordination. Now, it is almost two years since those agreements were signed. What is your assessment of the practical implementation of these agreements?

[Al-Khuri] First of all, I must explain first that in addition to the agreements signed during the first session, which was held in September 1993 in Beirut, we also signed several other agreements during the second session, which was held in September 1994 in Damascus. This is in addition to yet other agreements which were signed during the meetings of the different ministerial committees. These agreements are: 1. Cooperation agreement in the field of labor. 2. Cultural Cooperation agreement. 3. Cooperation agreement in the field of higher education and scientific research. 4. Cooperation agreement in the field of vocational and technical education. 5. Cooperation agreement in the field of education. 6. Cooperation agreement in the postal service. 7. Agreement on the Orontes River water. This is in addition to the signing of several other executive protocols. We are trying to implement the provisions of these and the other previous agreements. I can say that big progress has been made on the practical implementation of most of these agreements. However, we should point out that there has been slow progress in some fields which needs effort and time.

[Khayyat] Do you have any new significant figures on trade between Syria and Lebanon and the export-import activity between the two countries with regard to industrial and agricultural products? And, are there any difficulties facing this trade?

[Al-Khuri] A statistical review of the exchange of commodities between Lebanon and Syria will show that there has been a steady growth in this exchange, especially following the signing of the Treaty of Fraternity, Cooperation, and Coordination and the Agreement on Economic and Social Cooperation. In 1991, for instance, Syrian imports from Lebanon amounted to 330.39 million Syrian pounds, while the exports to Lebanon amounted to 3,695,200,000 pounds. The difference between imports and exports was due to several factors; foremost, oil. Lebanon imports most of its oil and oil by-products from Syria.

In 1993, Syrian imports from Lebanon rose to 723.35 million pounds, while Lebanese imports from Syria amounted to 3.717 billion pounds. This year, Lebanon

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

led the list of importers from Syria. Therefore, this quick review shows a steady growth in trade relations, resulting from the endeavors to remove any obstacles. This growth continued in 1994 and 1995, but the figures are not available now.

Regarding the difficulties facing trade, it is not possible to point them out now. All I can say is that certain objective legal and economic matters have arisen in the past few years which need to be considered. These matters must be tackled within their context and according to the aims of the Agreement on Economic and Social Cooperation. Therefore, efforts are being exerted to gradually overcome these difficulties through coordination and cooperation.

[Khayyat] Several joint ventures were proposed during the past two years, such as the Orontes River dam and the cement factories. How many of these projects have been carried out?

[Al-Khuri] Regarding the economic projects, I can say that nothing practical has been achieved so far, since we are still in the process of making the scientific preparation for them. As for the Orontes River dam, I have explained more than once that what was proposed was not a joint dam, but a water distribution pact, which is what has actually taken place.

[Khayyat] How is the labor agreement between Syria and Lebanon being implemented; and, is it possible to do something about the loopholes which have appeared in this agreement, especially on the question of insuring Syrian workers in Lebanon and exempting them of the exorbitant fees charged on foreign workers?

[Al-Khuri] The labor agreement came into force only as of the beginning of September 1995 after it was ratified by Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. When we were informed that the agreement was ratified, we began preparing for a meeting of the joint committee to study the necessary execution steps. If loopholes do appear, this committee will tackle them and propose the solutions for them.

[Khayyat] Has Syria begun supplying Lebanon with electricity; and, in what quantities?

[Al-Khuri] Syria began supplying electricity to Lebanon as of 1 July 1995. This has greatly contributed to alleviating Lebanon's power crisis. The quantity agreed upon ranges from 50 to 100 megawatt hours daily.

[Khayyat] Are there any new steps to facilitate border crossing between the two countries, and when will they be taken?

[Al-Khuri] Yes, there will be new steps to facilitate border crossing between the two countries. It is intended to use a unified card for the entry and exit of individuals. We and the competent committee are also studying a draft agreement on common border posts. Furthermore, the Syrian authorities are examining the possibility of permitting Lebanese to cross with their cars on the basis of their ID cards or endorsed personal status documents. There is an agreement on principle on this subject. As to when this would come into force, we hope that it would be very soon. At any rate, the date will be announced officially once it has been fixed by the competent authorities.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Taleban Denies Accord With Anti-Rabbani Opposition

LD1410125895 Tehran IRNA in English 1248 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 14, IRNA — The Afghan student movement of Taleban have denied that they had struck any agreement with the opposition to oust the government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

A spokesman of the movement in Peshawar, Abdor Rehman Zahid told IRNA on telehpone that none of the opposition parties had any contribution to the recent attack on Kabul by Taleban.

He was commenting on reports quoting sources from main opposition alliance, Supreme Coordination Council of Afghanistan that anti- Rabbani grouping has reached an agreement with Taleban to launch joint attack on beleagured Afghan capital.

The four party anti-Rabbani alliance includes Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Golboddin Hekmatyar, Hizbe Wehdat [Unity Party] faction led by Karim Khalili, National Islamic Front of Afghanistan headed by Sibghatollah Mujadeddi besdies Uzbek war-lord general Abdor Rashid Dostam's Northern Islamic Movement of Afghanistan whose forces launched attack on government troops Tuesday [10 October] last.

But, Taleban spokesman said Dostam forces' assault has nothing to do with their attack on Kabul.

Zahid also denied Kabul Government allegations that Taleban attacked Kabul on the proddings of Pakistan.

The state run Kabul Radio frequently blames Islamabad for supporting student movement, a charge which Pakistan has repeatedly denied.

Taleban Reportely Launches New Attacks Near Kabul

Takes Positions South, West of Kabul

BK1410084895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 14 (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taleban religious student militia overran several important government positions in south and west of Kabul in a two-pronged overnight night offensive, a Taleban spokesman said here Saturday [14 October].

The Taleban captured Qila Haider Khan, district centre of western Paghman province neighbouring the besieged Afghan capital, Mulla Malang told AFP.

Qila Haider Khan, which is just 20 kilometers (12 miles) west of Kabul had served as the headquarters of beleaguered Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's important ally, Rasul Sayyaf.

Paghman province had however remained in the hands of Sayyaf's Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Union] faction, Malang said, adding that Sayyaf had already left his stronghold and was believed to be in Kabul.

He said another military base named after Sayyaf's commander, Sher Alam, was also seized in the offensive launched by the Taleban overnight Friday.

On the southern front, Malang said the Taleban assault led to the capture of a former Scud missile base located on the hills overlooking Darulaman district in suburban Kabul.

Independent confirmation was not immediately available, although other Afghan sources said the Taleban's assaults were massive and both sides had traded heavy arms fire.

Malang said heavy fighting continued to rage both in south and west of Kabul throughout Friday night but the intensity of the artillery duels scaled down early Saturday.

He said the Taleban had also overrun Arghandeh, 15 kilometers (nine miles) southwest of Kabul on Thursday and they advanced several kilometers more late Friday.

The spokesman stressed that the Taleban were also holding on to their recently captured positions in the southern flank including the Rishkor garrison, 12 kilometers (seven miles) from Kabul city after blunting a counter-attack by pro-Rabbani troops late Thursday.

The Taleban movement composed of mostly Pashtun Afghan students from religious schools in Pakistan, emerged late last year with an avowed goal to capture Kabul and establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

Within months they seized a third of their country from different factions.

Their latest attempt to capture Kabul, launched on Wednesday, came almost six months after a similar bid was foiled by pro-Rabbani forces in March this year.

Said Repulsed by Government Troops

LD1510152695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports reaching here from Kabul say the Afghan Government forces attacked from the air and ground the Taleban positions in the west

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

and southwest of Kabul. According to the reports, the government forces have succeeded to repulse a Taleban attack on Kabul. According to a report by AFP, an Afghan Government source said the Taleban backed by tanks and military vehicles attacked the southern part of the Darolaman Palace. During the attack their tanks were destroyed and their armored vehicles were captured by the government forces. According to the report, a Taleban spokesman in Peshawar claimed the Taleban forces have made advances in the southeast of Kabul and captured a government rocket position on top of a hill around a government-held area.

Another report from Kabul says the intensified fighting in the south of Kabul has caused mass killing of the local residents in the area.

Said 'Fleeing' From Battlefield Lines

LD1510185695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the resolute defense put up by the Islamic army forces, the Taleban are fleeing from the first lines of the battlefield. After visiting the frontline in the south and southwest of Kabul, a Bakhtar correspondent reports: Due to the crushing blows by the Islamic army and after suffering heavy loss of life, the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] Taleban forces have lost their combat morale and are fleeing the battlefield. The Islamic army units have cleared up villages around Golbagh and Rishkhor, and the Taleban are being surrounded in a number of positions. Mohammad Qadir Qiyam, commander of the 847th Mechanized Brigade, who is in charge of the southwestern front, said: The Islamic army forces have defeated the enemy in the forward lines of the battlefield and have completely cleared up villages around Golbagh and Rishkhor. He added that the mojahedin are fully prepared to mount the final offensive against the ISI Taleban and to disperse them, and that with an organized operation they will be done away with because the mercenary Taleban have lost the capacity to fight and advance.

The report adds: In one front the bodies of 19 Taleban were lying in the battlefield which indicates the intensity of the fighting and heavy loss of life on the Taleban side. In the course of the clashes several of the enemy's tanks and armored vehicles were destroyed and a motor vehicle and its passengers from the Taleban group was set ablaze after being hit by a mojahedin rocket.

Commander Fazl, a mojahedin officer in Golbagh, said: We will chase the ISI Taleban until their master's plans fail.

[Words indistinct] Habib Afghan, a mojahedin officer in the area, said: The enemy has been defeated and will soon be eliminated. He added: One of the two dead bodies of the Taleban, who were killed and seized during yesterday's fighting, belongs to a Pakistani militiaman because he does not look like the Taleban and the documents found on his body indicate that he is a Pakistani citizen.

The Bakhtar correspondent says that the brunt of this imposed fighting has been borne by the civilians who live in heavy weapons range of the Taleban. A resident of Rishkhor moving out of the area said that the Taleban were targeting the local people's houses with rocket propelled grenades as a result of which several innocent people were killed. The residents of the area are now leaving for safer parts of the [Kabul] city. [Words indistinct]

Government Forces Attack Taleban in Herat Province

'Mojahedin' Launch Attack

BK1410104295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1029 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, Oct 14 (AFP) — Forces loyal to the Afghan government have launched a major assault on the Taleban militia in Herat province bordering Iran, Afghan sources said Saturday [14 October].

The "multi-pronged" attack was launched late Friday by a "coalition of pro-government mojahedin" from areas west of Herat city near the Iranian border, said the sources in Mashhad, a city in northeastern Iran bordering Afghanistan.

They have taken positions in areas 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Herat city and appear to have seized a military base located between Islam Qala and Herat city, the sources added.

Mojahedin Take Herat in 'Uprising'

LD1410161895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Herat city has been conquered as a result of the popular uprising in which the mojahedin took part. The uprising of the people of Herat against the so-called Taleban militia started last night in the city of Herat and other parts of the province. As a result of the uprising hundreds of militia were taken prisoner and a large quantity of their heavy weapons and ammunition was captured by the Islamic army. The people of Herat are searching for these national traitors,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

who are on the run. The uprising against these traitors started in Kohsan, Zindajan, Ghorian, Chesht, Obe, and Pashton Zarghon districts. The conquest of Herat took place after a big explosion at a military center of the militia yesterday. Twelve officers of the Pakistani ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] were killed in the explosion and the militia's command system was disrupted.

Forces Recapture 'Strategic' Posts

LD1410141195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the pro- Borhanoddin Rabbani forces have scored victories in the battlefields.

Mr. Khorasani, charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Tehran said today that the government forces, in the course of several successful operations, succeeded in recapturing from the Taleban group the 5th border post, 40 km from Herat city; and Chahar Asiab, a strategic place in the southwest of Kabul, as well as Kish Khvor area. These areas were captured last week by the Taleban group.

In his interview with the correspondent of the external services of the Islamic Republic of Iran Radio-Television, Mr. Khorasani said that the forces supporting Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of Afghanistan, last night started a large scale attack on Herat city. The Taleban group captured Herat city last month.

In his interview Mr. Khorasani said that heavy fighting broke out this morning in Arghandi, Nimroz, Badghis, and other regions of Afghanistan between the Taleban and Rabbani forces. Both sides used heavy weapons against each other positions.

Taleban: Government Troops Forced Back

BK1510105295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1040 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 15 (AFP) — The Taleban militia said Sunday [15 October] said they had inflicted heavy losses on pro- government troops who attempted an offensive in western Herat province.

The Taleban forced the attackers back, killing 25 fighters and taking another 25 prisoner, Taleban spokesman Mufti Mas'ud told AFP from the Pakistan city of Quetta.

The attack mounted late Saturday was led by Norollah Emad, a senior leader of beleaguered Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani's Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] faction, the spokesman said.

Mas'um said the attackers, numbering no more than 100, pounded Taleban positions in Eslam Qal'eh, a Herat town close to the Iranian border.

He said that on top of prisoners, the Taleban captured weapons and vehicles from the group which fled toward the Iranian city of Mashhad.

He reiterated that "complete calm" prevailed in Herat city Sunday and the Taleban faced no threat there.

Mas'um said it was not known if the Iranian Government was aware of the attack by pro-Rabbani elements. "We want to have good relations with all our neighbours, specially Iran and Pakistan," he said.

He said Iran had given asylum to Rabbani's former commanders and his supporters after the fall of Herat last month.

"We hope Iran would not allow these people to use its soil for such attacks," he said, adding that the activities of pro-Rabbani refugees could create problems for Iran as well as harming relations with the Taleban.

Government Move Said 'Total Failure'

BK1610080195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0752 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, Oct 16 (AFP) — A week-end offensive launched by pro-government Afghan forces against the Taleban Islamic militia in western Herat province bordering Iran has been a "total failure," Afghan sources said.

The sources in the Iranian city of Mashhad told AFP that total calm had returned to the Iran-Afghan border after the attacking forces composed of a coalition of mojahedin militiamen loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani were forced to retreat.

There were many casualties from the offensive which was launched on Saturday [14 October], they said without giving any figures.

The offensive, aimed at recapturing Herat, which fell to the Taleban in early September, "has totally failed," the sources said.

Taleban Denies Fighting in Herat

BK1410123295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1218 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD Oct 14 (AFP) — Afghan Taleban officials in Pakistan Saturday [14 October] denied reports that forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani had launched a major offensive to recapture the western city of Herat.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Herat was captured by the Taleban religious student militia in early September and since then "not a single shot has been fired," senior Taleban official Mufti Masoom said.

The Taleban spokesman said the claim was part of the Afghan government's disinformation campaign to boost the moral of its forces following recent defeats around Kabul.

Masoom, based in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta bordering Afghanistan, said the report was "absolutely incorrect."

Masoom, told AFP by telephone that he was in constant contact with his Taleban members in Herat. "There is no opposition," he said, adding that life in the city and surrounding areas was "normal."

Afghan sources in Tehran earlier said that a "multi-pronged" attack was launched late Friday by a "coalition of pro-government mujahedeen" from areas west of Herat city near the Iranian border.

The report said that pro-government forces had taken positions in areas 40 kilometers (25 miles) from Herat and appeared to have seized a military base located between Islam Qila and Herat city.

Taleban Denies Fall of Herat

LD1510104795 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct. 15, IRNA — While foreign news agencies have reported government forces attack on the western city of Herat, the Taleban have denied any fighting there.

A Taleban spokesman in Peshawar claimed that there was total peace and calm in Herat and Taleban leaders had full control over the city.

Mawlawi Mohammad Waihydar talking to IRNA on Saturday [14 October] rejected the Kabul government claim of retaking half of Herat and termed it a propaganda campaign in a bid to demoralize Taleban militants.

The news agencies on Saturday reported that Rabbani forces in a big attack had retaken many parts of Herat from Taleban's control.

Many Pakistani dailies including THE MUSLIM, THE NEWS, FRONTIER POST, JANG, NAWA-I-WAQT and PAKISTAN TIMES on Sunday reported that the fighting between Rabbani forces and Taleban was continuing and that Rabbani forces have taken back some parts of Herat from Taleban.

Daily THE FRONTIER POST quoting Radio Kabul reported today that fighters loyal to President Rabbani have recaptured the strategic Herat city after a popular uprising. It said that people of Herat revolted against Taleban Friday night and government forces in an attack against the student militia with the collaboration of people captured Herat city and arrested hundreds of Taleban fighters.

Government, Taleban Said Fighting on Iranian Border

BK1510101595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0934 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TEHRAN, Oct 15 (AFP) — Heavy fighting has broken out between pro-government Afghan forces and Taleban Islamic militia in the Iran-Afghan border region, Western and Afghan sources in Tehran said Sunday [15 October].

The Iranian town of Taibad, 10 kilometers (six miles) from the border and several villages in northeastern Iran have been hit by shells, they said.

Afghan consul in Mashhad, Mohammad 'Ali Azizi, told SALAM Daily that forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani had seized a border strip from Taleban a day earlier, forcing the student-led militia to retreat.

Pro-government forces also took control of the regions of Eslam Qal'eh, Zendeh-Jan and Hurian between the border and the Afghan city of Herat "in a drive to recapture Herat city," he said.

The Taleban militia captured the province of Herat along with two other western provinces of Nimruz and Farah, all bordering Iran, in a stunning offensive early last month against the pro-government forces.

"Herat city is presently besieged by government forces, who are ready to capture it," 'Abdol-Qayum Harimi, the first secretary of the Afghan consulate in Mashhad told SALAM Daily.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), stationed in Taibad, on Sunday ordered its staff to transfer to Mashhad, the main city in Khorasan province, bordering Afghanistan, following the shelling.

Iranian officials have been silent over the reported clashes, which caused an unspecified degree of damage.

Western and Afghan sources said the situation in Herat was "relatively calm but tense" and shops were closed. Telephone communication has been cut off between Mashhad and Herat in the past four days.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The fall of western Afghanistan, notably Herat, sent a wave of alarm through Iran, which strongly distrusts the anti-Shiite and anti-Iranian Taleban.

It has accused the group of being a puppet of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United States, and Iranian leaders have repeatedly warned the student-led militia to stay clear of Iran's border.

Following Herat's fall, the governor of the province Ismael Khan and hundreds of his associates were granted asylum in Iran basing themselves mainly in Khorasan province. Khan has vowed to retake Herat.

Heavy Fighting Reported on Border

NC1510081795 Paris AFP in English 0809 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 15 (AFP) — Heavy fighting has broken out between pro-government Afghan forces and Taleban Islamic militia in the Iran-Afghan border region, Western and Afghan sources in Tehran said Sunday [15 October]. The Iranian town of Taibad, 10 kilometers (six miles) from the border and several villages in northeastern Iran have been hit by shells, they said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), stationed in Taibad to oversee the repatriation of Afghan refugees in Iran, has transferred its staff to Mashhad, the main city in Khorasan province, bordering Afghanistan, following the shelling.

Iranian officials have not confirmed the clashes, which caused an unspecified degree of damage.

Telephone communication has been cut off between Mashhad and the Afghan city of Herat in the past four days.

Ministry Says Islamic Forces Advance in Sanglakh

LD1410174695 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The hireling militia of the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] were heavily defeated in Sanglakh front. According to a report by a reliable source of the Defense Ministry, as a result of an attack by the Islamic army forces starting at 0700 this morning, large areas were cleared in the direction of Sanglakh. They made an 8 km advance into the enemy lines. Different types of weapons were captured in the course of the operation. The advance continues in the area.

Forces Clear Sanglakh of Taleban

LD1510171495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the course of a successful operation, the strategic Sanglakh valley was cleared of the Taleban group this morning. Reports reaching Bakhtar say the Islamic army forces completely cleared up Sanglakh valley in an operation this morning. In the course of this successful operation, which was mounted after an attack by the Taleban group, dozens of the so-called Taleban militia were killed or injured. Some Pakistani militia were also among the dead whose bodies were lying on the battlefield. During the operation, mojahedin and Islamic army forces captured a number of the enemy's light and heavy weapons as well as a quantity of ammunition. The Islamic army forces are continuing their advance on Jalriz [near Maydan Shahr]. The Taleban mercenaries had penetrated Sanglakh a few days ago.

Bangladesh

Iranian President Rafsanjani Continues Visit

Views U.S. Sanctions, Other Issues

LD1310170595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] During the trip of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Dhaka, eight cooperation agreements have been signed between Iran and Bangladesh.

The agreements include cultural activities, combating drug trafficking, environment, agriculture, mutual investment, cooperation in oil affairs, post, telecommunication and sea transportation.

Concurrently, a trilateral agreement on international transportation and transit of goods was signed between Iran, Bangladesh and Turkmenistan.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's president, yesterday afternoon, took part in a press conference in Dhaka and described Bill Clinton's economic embargo against Iran a big defeat for America, saying the embargo has had no impact on Iran.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's president, then described the participation of 123 foreign firms in 10 major gas and oil projects in Iran as a clear example of the defeat of U.S. foreign policy, pointing out that no country is now willing to get involved in the incorrect policies of America.

He then referred to peaceful nuclear cooperation between Iran and China and stated: The cooperation is still

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

valid between the two countries and Iran and China are having talks on building a nuclear power plant in the country.

Elaborating on the historic verdict by the late Imam [Khomeyni] on Salman Rushdie, the apostate author of the Satanic Verses, by the founder of the Islamic revolution [Khomeyni], Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The verdict is irrevocable. [sentence as received]

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, then, talked about the issue of Kashmir, stressing the rights of the Muslim people of Jammu and Kashmir, commenting that the Kashmir crisis should be resolved through talks.

On the Bosnian problem, the Iranian president hoped that the integrity of Bosnia be preserved.

Ends Visit; Communique Issued

BK1410100495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Madame Rafsanjani were accorded a hearty send-off as they left Dhaka this afternoon for Tehran upon concluding their four-day state visit to Bangladesh. Two children presented bouquets to President and Madame Rafsanjani as they were seen off at the Zia International Airport by Information and Commerce Minister M. Shamsul Islam. Also present at the airport were the minister-in-waiting, Energy Minister Dr. Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain; the lady-in-waiting, Mrs. Rabeya Chowdhury, MP; the Iranian ambassador in Bangladesh, Mohammad Bayat; the Bangladesh ambassador to Iran, Seyyed Moazam Ali; and members of the Iranian community residing in Dhaka.

A 21-gun salute boomed farewell to the Iranian president. Four jet fighters of the Bangladesh Air Force escorted the Iran Air Boeing aircraft, carrying the Iranian president and members of his entourage, to the last point Bangladeshi air space. Earlier, the president of Iran offered his Friday prayers at the Baitul Mukarram national mosque. Addressing a gathering there, he called for unity of the Muslim world in order to establish the dignity of Islam.

A ceremonial farewell was accorded to Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the President House today upon conclusion of his four-day visit to Bangladesh. President Abdur Rahman Biswas formally bid farewell to the Iranian leader after a contingent from the three services presented him a guard of honor. The chiefs of the three services were present on that occasion. President Rafsanjani and President Biswas reviewed the guard of honor. Earlier, when President Rafsanjani and Madame Rafsanjani arrived at the President House, they were received by President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Begum Biswas.

Bangladesh and Iran have called for taking nondiscriminatory and universal steps to achieve global disarmament for the protection of international peace and security. This call was made in a joint communique issued simultaneously from Dhaka and Tehran on the conclusion of the four-day state visit of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Bangladesh. The communique said that the two countries emphasize the need to dismantle weapons of mass destruction in order to achieve global disarmament.

The communique added that during the official-level talks held between President Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, representatives of the two sides held extensive discussions on bilateral, regional, and international issues. Both sides also exchanged views on restructuring the United Nations along geographical lines and also discussed the representation of Asia in the UN under the new structure with a view to ensure its development. The two discussed ways to increase existing cooperation in political, economic, cultural, trade, and other fields. They also agreed to hold the next meeting of the Bangladesh-Iran Joint Commission in Tehran on 11 November with the goal to increase the prospects of mutual welfare in different spheres.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the signing of seven Memoranda of Understanding [MOU's] between the two countries. These MOU's are aimed at increasing cooperation in various fields including energy; increasing mutual investments and their protection; cultural, scientific and technological exchange programs for 1995-1997; protection of environment; cooperation in field of agriculture, forests, posts and telecommunications; and checking of illegal drug trafficking.

In reviewing the regional situation, the two sides expressed their firm conviction that all unresolved problems of this region could be peacefully resolved through dialogue. The two sides also agreed to work together to consolidate peace and stability. The communique added that their respective national airlines corporations would take necessary measures to establish air links between the two countries. They also evinced keen interest in increasing the exchange of visits between the leaders, officials, and experts of the two countries to increase cooperation in economic, cultural, and (?technical) fields. It is said that the Iranian side has agreed to consider a proposal by Bangladesh to supply the necessary skilled manpower for different industrial sectors of Iran.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

President Biswas and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have accepted the invitation extended to them by President Rafsanjani to visit Iran.

Antigovernment General Strike Said Under Way

BK1610061295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Oct 16 (AFP) — A four-day anti-government general strike got under way Monday [16 October] in Bangladesh, the longest stoppage ever called in the South Asian country since its founding in 1971.

Police and demonstrators clashed within hours on a road leading to the Gulshan diplomatic area in central Dhaka. One person was injured and a demonstrator arrested, witnesses said.

A series of home-made bombs went off in different parts of the capital, including one near the election commission offices. But the complex was not damaged, an official said.

More than 6,000 security personnel were on duty in Dhaka where most streets were empty except for a few pedicabs, ambulances and taxis with "press" stickers ferrying journalists around.

But many people feared there would be fresh violence. Previous strikes since August have led to several deaths and scores of injuries.

The latest stoppage is another attempt in the 18-month campaign by the opposition led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League to topple Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and bring about fresh elections under a neutral administration.

Schools, shops and businesses were shut. Some government and private employees stayed overnight in their offices or in nearby hotels. Others walked to work.

Riot police in trucks followed demonstrators chanting anti-government slogans and guarded usual trouble spots and roads leading to the government ministry enclave.

Inter-district road and train links were cut, official sources said.

The strike call was largely followed in the southeast port city of Chittagong, which was reported deserted but quiet.

Thousands of Dhaka's eight million residents took advantage of the four-day strike and Friday holiday to give themselves a week off, calling it a "strike holiday."

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, acting secretary-general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party, told the Bhorer Kagoj daily that the governing party would not take action against the strikers.

The Daily Star newspaper, describing the stoppage as the longest and "most nerve-testing" action ever, said "national reconciliation cannot be abandoned under any circumstances."

The latest strike comes after an opposition ultimatum to Zia to meet their demands expired Sunday. Zia has rejected the opposition demands as "unconstitutional" but has offered to resign 30 days ahead of elections scheduled for early 1996.

Sheikh Wajed rejected "as a mere joke" a weekend invitation to tea and talks with Zia.

"We know strikes increase public suffering, but the prime minister forced us ... We will call it off as soon as our demands are met," she told a party meeting Sunday.

Nevertheless there is growing public and private pressure on politicians to end the country's crippling conflict. Business and community leaders have sharply criticised all sides in the trial of strength and warned that politicians will have to face the consequences of their actions from an exasperated public.

However, political sources said no concrete moves were expected until Zia has been to New York where she will attend the United Nations 50th anniversary session. She leaves for New York October 20.

The Awami League, jailed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad's Jatiya Party and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party resigned from the 330-member National Parliament in December to push their demands for fresh elections. Their seats were declared vacant in July.

India

PRC Reportedly Shows Goodwill Gesture to Minister

BK1410151795 Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 2 Oct 95 p 14

[PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing, Oct. 1 (PTI)— In a gesture of goodwill, India was honoured with the visiting Textiles Minister, Mr Kamal Nath, being seated along with the Chinese President, Mr Jiang Zemin, the Premier, Mr Li Peng, and the economic czar and Vice Premier, Mr Zhu Rongji, at a grand reception marking China's 46th national day.

There were several ministers from foreign countries present during the reception on Saturday [30 September]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

night in the wake of the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council meeting in Beijing but only the Indian Minister and the Cambodian King were chosen to be seated at table number one along with top Chinese leaders at the Great Hall of the People.

Diplomatic circles here described this gesture as "significant" indicating the improving relations between India and China.

Though Mr Kamal Nath holds independent charge of the Textile Ministry, he was not a cabinet rank minister. Yet Mr Kamal Nath was seated at table one and he was accompanied by the Chinese Premier [in] the reception hall, signifying the importance China attached to promoting relations with India.

This is the second time that Mr Kamal Nath has visited China this year. Earlier he had visited China when he was Environment Minister during which the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on the protection of the endangered tiger.

It was not only the seating arrangement which sends vital and crucial messages round the world, the Chinese media gave extensive coverage to the meeting of the Vice Premier and Foreign Minister, Mr Qian Qichen, with his Indian counterpart, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, in New York where the two leaders are participating in the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council.

The official CHINA DAILY, which front paged the report, quoted Mr Qian as saying Sino-India relations had great potential and the broad prospects of co-operation are in South-South, Non-Aligned Movement, human rights, environment, population and other major international issues.

Mr Qian also spoke highly of the Indian Government's support for China on the Taiwan question and human rights issue.

Mr Kamal Nath later told PTI that Mr Zhu Rongji, who sat next to the Indian minister at the head table, welcomed the suggestion to work towards having an international price mechanism to bring about stability in prices of cotton and silk.

He also extended greetings from the Prime Minister, Mr P V Narasimha Rao, to Mr Li Peng on the occasion of the 46th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

UK Official Discusses Economic Ties With Ministers

BK1410091495 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Indo-British relations came up for review at a meeting between the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khursheed, and the British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Mr. Jeremy Hanley, in New Delhi today. Mr. Khursheed stressed the need to concretize new areas of bilateral cooperation.

The British minister also met the minister of state for finance, Dr. Devi Prasad Pal. Mr. Hanley said Britain wants to increase economic cooperation with India. He expressed his government's appreciation of the economic reforms undertaken by India. Dr. Pal said India welcomes private investment in the priority sectors of infrastructure and human resource development.

Kashmir 'Militants' Arrested for Plotting Bomb

BK1410125595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, an abortive attempt to blast the Civil Secretariat and MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] Hostel has been foiled with the timely arrest of seven dreaded militants of a banned outfit in Srinagar. Briefing newspersons in Srinagar, the corps commander, General G.S. Dillon, said that the arrests were made last evening when a residential house in Jawaharnagar locality of Srinagar was raided. He said that the arrested included one so-called divisional commander of the outfit and a foreign mercenary. Gen. Dhillon said during the interrogation, the militants revealed that after blasting these buildings, they were to move to New Delhi to cause explosions during the coming festival.

Rao Views Kashmir Issue, Election Preparations

BK1510094495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, last night reviewed the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and the state's preparations for holding assembly elections. During the review, the governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, conveyed to the prime minister that the state administration is fully geared up for holding peaceful elections in the state. Official sources said the prime minister also stressed that bottlenecks in the transportation of essential commodities to the state should be removed and efforts to provide adequate stocks for the winter season geared up.

Meanwhile, in the Kashmir Valley, an abortive attempt to blast the state secretariat and MLA [member of

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

legislative assembly] Hostel has been foiled with the timely arrest of seven dreaded militants of a banned outfit in Srinagar. The arrests were made yesterday when a residential house in Jawaharnagar locality of the city was raided.

Development of Modified Prithvi Missile Reported

BK1510130895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO, is developing modified versions of the Prithvi missile for possible use by the Air Force and Navy. The range of the missile will be made longer, increasing its effectiveness. The Prithvi was originally developed as a ground-based surface-to-surface missile for the Army. The modifications will enable it to be installed on moving platforms like ships. Defense sources told our correspondent that the induction of Prithvi into the Army is continuing smoothly.

Iran

Article Addresses Government's 'Anti-U.S. Spirit'

BR1310151495 Milan FAMIGLIA CRISTIANA in Italian 18 Oct 95 pp 58-64

[Article by Carlo Remeny: "The Remains of a Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] It looks like a replay of the script for the decline of the USSR: the sclerosis of the Breznev era, Andropov's attempt to find a way out of the paralysis, which foundered on the rock of U.S. hostility, and the convulsions of perestroika. "We here are like the USSR 10 years after the advent of Gorbachev," the diplomatic source told us, "but without the structures that Moscow had, so the 10 years are equivalent to much less." [passage omitted]

You could say that the anti-U.S. spirit has survived as well: "The United States remains the Great Satan on account of its interference and the spirit of predomination that it has maintained," said Hasan Qashqavi, one of the chairmen of the Majles (parliamentary) Foreign Affairs Committee. [passage omitted]

Then it was Saddam Husayn's turn ("He remains the obstacle along the road to entente between Iran and Iraq," Qashqavi said, although Tehran had made the highly symbolic gesture over the previous weeks of handing 100 or so prisoners of war back to Baghdad), and, last but not least, Israel's ("Perhaps the issue of Israel occupying Palestine will not be settled," said Atrian Far, editor of HAMSHAHRI, the major Iranian daily, set up by the highly popular mayor of Tehran, Hossein Karbashi, who might well run for president in 1997. "However, we will never deny our support to the Palestinians who intend to fight to liberate their land.") [passage omitted]

The battle for the future of the Islamic Republic is being fought out on economic policy options and on whether to liberalize the political parties. The stage has been dominated over the last few years by the Association of Militant Clergy, which comprises the main political and religious figures. "The country needs parties, because the lobbies already exist," said Morteza Firoozi, the publisher of the IRAN NEWS, a daily that reflects the view of the more pragmatic economic and political circles, President Rafsanjani's so-called modern Right, which would not look with disfavor on the restoration of relations with the United States, provided national sovereignty were respected, should signals to that effect be received from the White House. "Until we have parties, we will not be able to educate people for political responsibility," commented 'Abbas Abdi, a senior editor with the Islamic left-wing daily SALAAM, who had spent eight months in jail for having dared to criticize the present regime. [passage omitted]

"Corruption has not yet reached ministerial level, but it is rife among the officials occupying posts immediately below," explained IRAN NEWS chief Firoozi. "It must be said that a large proportion of corruption is imported, because the state functionaries place contracts with foreign companies in exchange for kickbacks." Representatives of Iranian companies confirmed this, telling us that they were often defeated in tenders because they were unable to compete with the gifts offered by foreign groups or to gain access to internal credits without being well in with the local authorities.

Corruption is widespread. The country's currency difficulties (a national can purchase through the banks and export not more than $1,000 a year) have allowed a sort of mafia, which is apparently not entirely foreign to the people's Mujahedin organization, to set up a network of its own, especially in the Tehran bazaar, where any Iranian (who knows the right "shops") is free to order any amount of dollars he wants, paying for them in Iranian rials. He is given a receipt and a phone number to call in the foreign city for which he is bound. The phone is answered by the person who will deliver the dollars to him at his hotel. [passage omitted]

Some time ago, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, a close associate of the late imam [Khomeyni], former interior minister, former ambassador to Damascus, and founder of the Hizballah, was prevented from entering Tehran University to take part in a debate on the political situation.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Death Sentence on Rushdie Cannot Be Revoked

Mohtashemi is the leader of the Left: He criticizes both the government's economic policy and its attempts to patch up relations with the West (and with the United States in particular), perhaps by seeking to lighten the fatwa (legal opinion founded on the law) pronounced by Khomeyni and condemning Salman Rushdie to death ("Our government does not want to send anyone to do away with Rushdie," Qashqavi told us, "but the fatwa is a decree that cannot be revoked because it has a religious value."), and calls for free access for all to the mass media and for a multiparty system.

This is precisely what the traditional Islamic Right, the country's third potential party, which is strongly represented in the centers of decisionmaking, wants to avoid. It is a Right that reaffirms its adherence to Koranic law, sees the constitution as a threat to its own absolute, obscurantist power, is the declared enemy of any idea of a cultural invasion from outside, and looks to the Saudis with interest. It has strong support in religious circles and among the merchant class and is represented in the press, the theological colleges, and the mosques, where it is in idrect contact with society.

Many people wonder about the views of the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamene'i. There was only one clue: Mohtashemi frequently praised the curbing effect that he exerted on those who flirted with the United States. Some writers whom we met with were extremely alarmed and were wondering who was actually running the country, and how many centers of power there were, seeing that, after a long-drawn-out examination and the removal of 41 pages, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance had authorized the publication of a book by an Iranian author — "God Only Laughs on Mondays" — and the bookshops had hardly had time to display it when they were anonymously accused of anti-Islamic propaganda.

"This Was Not What Khomeini Envisaged [quotation marks as published]

[Begin box] [Remeny] Why have you accused President Rafsanjani of using the figure of Ayatollah Khomeyni to justfy the government's economic policy, Mr. Mohtashemi?

[Mohtashemi] Imam Khomeyni wanted social justice and economic justice: The government must be a father who distributes wealth. He wanted the strategic sectors of steel, oil, and heavy industry to be state-owned. Then he envisaged cooperative sector and a third block of enterprises under private ownership. Now they want to liberalize and privatize everything. Rafsanjani says he is following Khomeyni's plan, but this is the Monetary Fund and World Bank plan, not the imam's.

[Remeny] What are you referring to when you maintain that the spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khamene'i, is standing in the way of opportunist politicians?

[Mohtashemi] There are opportunist bureaucrats who are working to restore relations with the United States, but the spiritual leader is foiling their attempts.

[Remeny] Will the forthcoming election bring changes on the Iranian political scene?

[Mohtashemi] If it is a free competition, the radical revolutionaries will win, and there will be no more attempts to normalize relations with the United States, because this is the policy that the leader favors.

[Remeny] Apart from the outer trappings, what is left of the Islamic revolution?

[Mohtashemi] The primary objective was the country's independence. There have been no concessions on that score. We work as an independent state at the United Nations. The list of candidates for the Iranian parliament is no longer drawn up by the U.S. embassy.

[Remeny] Is an anti-U.S. front comprising Iran, Saddam Husayn's Iraq, and Syria conceivable?

[Mohtashemi] It is impossible for the governments to form a joint front, but a front made up of the peoples is possible.

[Remeny] There are some who claim that 'Arafat, once the leader of a revolution, has now declined to the status of a mayor. What do you think?

[Mohtashemi] Israel does not even accept him as a mayor or a policeman. He is playing the part of a puppet. [end box]

Meanwhile, the world is wondering whether Iran will have the atomic bomb. "It could take them 30 years to get to using nuclear power for military purposes, because their personnel training levels are below European university standards," said a diplomat serving in Tehran in response to the U.S. reports. Before the year is out, Russia will begin building a 1,000-megawatt nuclear power station for civilian purposes at Bushehr on the Persian Gulf, at a cost of $800 million. Two other reactors with lower outputs will follow, plus two more built by the Chinese.

There are those who point out that it is not the power station in itself that gives cause for concern, but the supplier, and that it is not fear of the Islamic atomic bomb that makes people cry wolf, but a mistrust of the Kremlin that has never died out: a marriage of interest

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that the Iranian daily KAYHAN hails as the "new era of strategic cooperation" between Tehran and Moscow, from the Caucasus and Central Asia to the Persian Gulf.

Ministry Denies Afghan Forces Operate in Country

LD1510113095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry has rejected reports that Afghan Government forces are using the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran to launch operations aimed at liberating the town of Herat. The Foreign Ministry spokesman stated the following: The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward Afghanistan has not changed and the establishment of peace, calm, and stability in that country continues to be the main focus of that policy.

While expressing the anxiety of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the continuation of clashes and internal fighting in Afghanistan, he expressed the hope that the fighting in that country would cease as soon as possible.

Ayatollah Khamene'i Arrives in Sari, Makes Speech

LD1410142195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0700 GMT 14 Oct 95

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, on his arrival in Sari, Mazandaran Province; broadcast in progress — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] You want development and progress for Iran. If you want the development and progress of the country to benefit from economic welfare, economic development, comprehensive growth, political prestige, employment security, communal security, knowledge, progress, and research on the one hand, and from spirituality on the other hand, you should take into account two things. These two things are the duty of everyone. [passage omitted] These two things must be considered jointly. The first thing is that everyone must jointly take part in the reconstruction of the country; the other thing is that they should work to purify their own soul. [passage omitted]

It is not enough to work for only one of these two things. No one should think that the country will be built merely by saying Praise be to God and without making any efforts or engaging in reconstruction activities. Not at all. It needs work, efforts and struggle. It needs practical and scientific struggle [mojahedat].

The province of Mazandaran is one of the most heavily populated provinces of our country; it has a population of 4 million. It has vast natural resources. [passage omitted]

The province should not have any unemployed people. It should contribute to the vast national resources of the country. The province should not have any entangled knots [as heard]. There should not be any poverty in any section of the province. All these require efforts.

My dear ones, if global arrogance had not provoked its puppets against this nation and the eight-year old [Iran-Iraq] war had not been imposed on us, the revolution would have carried out these tasks during the very first years of the revolution. There are some who prefer to sit on the sidelines and make comment about our country's officials, about the sincere and devoted employees who work for the country in the government and who make speeches in which they frequently refer to problems and explain that they are caused by foreign enemies. It has became a habit for some people to accuse these gentlemen of blaming everything on foreign enemies.

Is not the eight-year war one of the realities of this country? It is not funny to impose an all-round war on a country for eight years and force all its financial resources into the war. Is that nothing? [passage omitted]

If the enemy had not conspired against us; if the enemy, led by the global arrogance headed by the evil and wicked United States, had not operated against us; if our officials had not taken measures against the enemy, many of these tasks would have been carried out already. We are several years behind, but it is not too late. We are not too late. This nation is capable and self-reliant, and it relies also on God. It has caring and devoted officials. It is not short of experts and skilled people. It has plentiful working hands. It can rebuild its homeland in such way that there is no need for foreigners, whose faces the nation loathes to see.

Now you see that the Americans are sitting over there and threatening the Iranian nation and government with an economic embargo. Thank God, in the past few days, the U.S. officials have themselves officially announced, in their own words and in an explicit manner, that their policy of imposing an economic embargo against Iran has failed at the international level. [crowds chants: "God is great!", "Khamene'i is the leader!", "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!"]

This is due to your steadfastness, to your refusal to be frightened by the enemy's angry words. Do not be frightened by the enemy's angry words. Never be frightened of the United States. [crowd chants 11 times: "Death to America!"]

The brave behavior of our nation and the country's officials has also encouraged other nations, thanks be to God. The time has passed when the Americans could think that they are the arbiter for the whole world.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

They threatened various countries in the world and made decisions about them. All of these things are blessings to prevent us forgetting two factors.

The first factor is that you should take part in the country's reconstruction; you should engage in scientific reconstruction, study, teach, carry out research, think, carry out renovations and take initiatives, find short cuts, resolve deadlocks, and advance. That is from the scientific standpoint. Then there is practical work; all should take part in the country's reconstruction. [passage omitted]

The second factor is: Come back to God, O believers." [passage omitted] Do not forget God, my dear ones. [passage omitted] Be vigilant. Today one of your enemies' essential objectives is to corrupt the morals of the young in this nation. They are trying to do that, making investments to do that. Who must be vigilant? Everybody, especially the young, the believing young. [passage omitted] Be vigilant, since the reconstruction period is the period of the Great Jihad as well. [passage omitted]

Yazdi Delivers Tehran Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1310185795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1115 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, at Tehran University on 13 October — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Among the issues which should be referred to, the first is the trip by the honorable president to southeast Asian countries and the popular welcome [he received], particularly in Bangladesh, and the signing of a number of big and important agreements, which you have all heard on the media. You have also heard, of course, the remarks made by the world's propaganda mouthpieces, be they European, U.S. or Israeli.

When I hear remarks by certain propaganda mouthpieces I remember the imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with him, who said if the enemy analyzes what you did it means that what you did was important. I should say that, yes, arrogance is very upset about the positive effects of this trip. Because it sees that Iran's diplomatic relations [with other countries] are getting stronger, that its economic problems are being solved, that its growth is not halting, that its [U.S.] plan to isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran not only failed but had the opposite effect, and has in fact persuaded others to increase their contact [with Iran].

That sort of thing naturally upsets the enemy. If you have heard some of the things a certain European radio and Radio Israel have said they show clearly how upset the enemy is. Because it sees that their plans have failed. Especially Iran's economic embargo, which obviously no one took any notice of. At the same time, big companies in the world declared that they would like to cooperate in our oil projects, which you have read in the press. Couple that with the participation of a large number of industries from various countries alongside our own industries in the 21st [Tehran] trade fare.

I am not concerned with its economic aspects; I am more concerned with the growth in the status and the stability of the system. Those who only think about money, especially commercial or oil companies, which usually think only of money, their willingness to cooperate and sign agreements and take part in these exhibitions has connotations other than buying and selling and financial gain. It means the trustworthiness, creditworthiness, the growth and progress, and the importance of the system. [passage omitted]

The issue of World Standard Day does not concern me very much and perhaps I should not waste your time about it either. But I do have a point to mention and this is why I am referring to the issue.

First of all, the standard issue is an Islamic one. You should not think that it was one of the things imported from the West, or that only health organizations have the right to claim that the issue concerns them and no one else; that pharmaceutical products, food and even clothes can be acceptable only if they carry the Standard label and so forth. No, this is an Islamic issue — having a criteria, a standard, a ceiling in whatever one makes or does. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in accordance with Islamic teachings, does conform to the standard criteria which everyone should follow — especially regarding products that are exported and the country's special, specific export products.

I do remember something — but I do not have the time to discuss it in detail here. It concerns one of our country's world-famous products which were returned by a European country. The product seemed to conform to all standard criteria. Everyone was surprised and wanted to know the reasons for their return. Tests and investigation showed that when the product was being picked and handled, two of the workers who had children, had not observed hygiene regulations strictly and this showed up in the tests conducted on the product and the goods were subsequently returned. This was a blow to the country's reputation, because — according to the gentlemen — standards had not

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

been fully observed. Part of the country's reputation and honor, the reputation of the system and in reality, Islam's reputation and honor are tied to those products for which the country is famous the world. If the criteria are followed, it also reflects on Islam and Muslims. It shows Muslims are orderly, disciplined, reliable and law-abiding and not negligent or audacious. This is a credit to Islam.

This does not only concern pharmaceuticals, food, clothes; it should be said that everything in social life has a standard. Or, let me explain it this way. I do not have much time and shall refer to my own department. One of the criticisms directed at us sometimes, by the world, is that our judicial system does not conform to international standards. We ask them why does it not? They say: It is not an open system, defendants cannot have a lawyer, and they have no right of appeal. We tell them: Look here sirs, why are you saying these things? Why are you accusing us out of ignorance, especially now that changes have been made to the system. All those involved in the profession emphasize that the reforms were important. In spite of this, we see that our enemies are still repeating these criticisms, especially those enemies who choose not to see the progress we have made. I have seen a special article in this connection and when I study the sum total of the problems they are referring to, I am really amazed. Most of these are false accusations. Who says that a defense lawyer is not present in our judicial system? There is a lawyer and the two sides have a natural right to have lawyers and this is so in all trials. Now, if anyone says they do not want a defense lawyer or says they cannot afford it, even then, in many cases which involve complex litigation, a legal-aid lawyer is called on to be present; the judicial system gets them a free lawyer.

Or, let us take the issue of openness. Well, not all trials are open. I have explained already what open and legal means, that is, if anyone wants to go, participate, and see what happens in the courts, they are allowed to do so. There is no need to necessarily issue an invitation in the press or media and to report all the details. The primary feature of our country's courts is that they are open unless the judge deems it necessary to hold a closed trial because of security or public decency issues. Otherwise, the trials are open.

Regarding the right to appeal, this exists and is one of the most natural rights. It goes to the court of appeal and in our system, and those who are qualified in law can investigate this, appeals in the new system are much more precise and stronger than the appeals in the former system. This is because, without doubt, the judges who are involved in appeals, in this system, are more powerful than the judges participating in the initial trial which is different from the situation under the former system. Appeal courts are now in provincial centers and alongside this is the higher supervision of the State Supreme Court. When a case has been investigated and a verdict issued, the accused has a right to appeal. The case goes to the appeal court, to the State Supreme Court and the latter attends to the case, issues its views and, after the final stage, there is even the possibility of another ultimate stage after the investigations if there is an appeal or a further referral by the Supreme Court. The system is a complete one. Now, if someone is not familiar with it, has not studied it, and has an urge to express an opinion and says something, for example, about the judicial system, there is no need at all for us to respond or reply. We can blame it on their lack of information; if they went and studied the law, the issue would become clear.

No authority can tell the judge to do this or that; no authority at all. As to the question of whether or not the judge has done his work properly, there is a disciplinary court, there is the higher supervision of the State Supreme Court and, when the appeal reaches the State Supreme Court the court studies it and issues its opinion. We believe that the country's judicial system fully meets the standard criteria and conforms to Islamic and, to a large extend, to international standards.

Now a few words about the remarks made by the pope in a college, that is to say a seminary for Catholic priests, in the heart of the United States, in Washington. In a comprehensive speech to various strata of the community he put forward a detailed argument, parts of which have been reported by our press which you also have heard. I will use one or two sentences here. The first sentence gives the idea that the United States has turned into a cemetery for human virtues. Human virtues have been buried there and are still being buried there, one after another. Some are buried and some are being buried. A senior Christian authority, and they are usually most particular on political issues, offered such an interpretation in such a place and that is astonishing. Of course he did not content himself with that. He then says that Washington is the city of the rich. The rich live there but no one thinks of the poor and the needy. That is his second interpretation. That means the human virtues of the city's rich are dead. There is no humanitarianism toward the poor and the needy. Sympathy, care, and help does not exist at all. Such a knowledgeable person in such a post makes such a judgement and no one has rejected it. No one has told him that is nonsense and things are not like that. [passage omitted]

When such a personality speaks like that he must have reason. His argument is very long. Continuing, he says

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that the main secret of such a situation is that the family structure has disintegrated. Since the family structure has disintegrated the road will lead to an irremediable catastrophe. That is a judgement, a reasoned argument, and a document. That is to say, the United States' future will fall victim to a catastrophe because the family structure has collapsed, because in practice the rich do not think about the poor at all and because human values have died altogether. A noble verse comes to mind. [passage omitted]

When I was reading the pope's remarks it came to mind that apparently the Divine plan is that the United States should fall apart just like the former Soviet Union. The path they have chosen has no other end but that. [crowd chants "Death to America"]

Anyhow, according to what we take from that noble verse and what such personalities as the pope point out, there is no way but a changing of their course. They should] really mend their ways, wake up, listen to their betters, and open their ears in the classroom. As the respected President Rafsanjani said they are not such good students. Why don't they open their eyes and ears? Why don't they think? Why don't they listen to the lesson given by the history master? If they don't open their ears then the future will not be anything other than disintegration. [passage omitted]

My time is up but another issue concerns Bosnian events. Even though a so-called cease-fire is in force, the previous cease-fire was violated and other tragic events have taken place. I fail to understand why the forceful expulsion of Muslims from their homes does not amount to a war crime. What have they done about the war crimes committed earlier? Naturally, if there is going to be a trial one day, we believe that such acts should also be considered as war crimes and their perpetrators tried.

Here, we should only say that the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] shoulders a heavier burden now. The member countries of the OIC should try harder to protect the rights of Muslims and their territory.

We referred to the situation in Afghanistan earlier. Unfortunately the situation is still the same and we do not know when fratricide will end and when reconstruction of this war-torn country will begin. We have repeatedly said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always made efforts to remove differences, stop the fratricide, restore the rights of all parties, and help establish a proper Islamic government. You are the people who managed to expel the powerful arrogant force of the former Soviet Union. How is it that now you are unable to end disputes among yourselves and negotiate a proper settlement? [passage omitted]

Daily Discusses Turkish Motivation in Iraq

NC1410124395 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 9 Oct 95 p 16

[Commentary by Abolqasem Qasemzadeh: "The Crisis of Turkey or Northern Iraq?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish Armed Forces commandos have advanced deep inside Iraqi territory across the Cukurca border region in Hakkari province.

The current attack by the Turkish forces and their infiltration into Iraqi territory is not the first. Since 1958 parts of northern Iraq have been occupied by Turkish forces frequently on the pretext of crushing the antiregime Kurds. It is worth noting President Sulayman Demirel's remarks calling for a review of his country's boundaries with Iraq so that part of Iraq would be seceded and annexed to Turkey. He mentioned that according to the Lausanne treaty Turkey was not prepared to hand the Mosul region to Iraq.

Thus, he is seeking to revive historical claims to annex northern Iraq to Turkey. Crushing the Kurdish dissidents helps to justify those objectives.

The Turkish military operations inside Iraq can be assessed in two ways:

1. In light of Turkey's present conditions and the weak and volatile situation of Saddam Husayn, these military operations can be viewed as a limited and expedient measure.

In view of Ciller's resignation and the formation of a minority party government formation mostly comprised of right wing members— some of them, including Foreign Minister Kirca, have been described by the country's press as sincere friends of Israel and the United States—the current military operations have diverted critical attention from the central government's problems and assessment of the changes in Ciller's cabinet to the problems and crises of the Kurds.

On the other hand, the so-called national clamor over the annexation of northern Iraq to Turkey is being revived. Instead of debating the crisis in Turkey or the innumerable problems of Ciller's government, a new political atmosphere may be generated by discussing the pros and cons of the military operations.

Based on such an assessment, the current military operations should be limited. Attention should be focused more on the internal crisis in Turkey rather than the constant crisis in northern Iraq. With propaganda depicting the complete success of the Turkish Armed Forces in suppressing the dissidents, the file will then be closed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

on what will be projected as circumstantial military operations.

Of course Ciller would take proper advantage of the operation's propaganda as her government has plenty of obstacles in the economic, cultural, and foreign policy fields, as well as political and economic problems regarding the European Union.

The Israeli and U.S. influence regarding Turkey's political future is another perspective from which the military operations inside the northern Iraqi territory should be viewed. It should be taken into account that many covert schemes for the division and occupation of Iraq have been exposed. The (Konabon) plan in 1958 and the (Louis) plan in 1977 are better known ones. U.S. and Israeli participation in formulating such plans for Turkey makes current Turkish military operations inside Iraq appear totally different and a serious crisis.

2. The principle of these operations is limited military action and can be considered a temporary contingency, but it still conjures up a plan to divide Iraq and annex its northern part to Turkey. This should be considered in the context of the current circumstances of Saddam Husayn, especially since the flight of his sons-in-law and the further weakening of the Ba'thist party in Iraq. Saddam now wants to legitimize a single faction headed by a single person in Iraq using a referendum to make it internationally acceptable.

Since the news of the flight of Saddam Husayn's relatives to Jordan became grist for the propaganda mills, two issues regarding Iraq's future have been headlined by the Western mass media and press: the future of Saddam Husayn and the future of Iraq; that is, whether Iraq will remain an independent whole or whether its partition is imminent!

From this vantage point, Turkish military operations deep inside the northern Iraqi territory can be linked to the discussions on the dismemberment of Iraq. They can also be viewed in light of U.S. and Israeli desire for a change in the region's boundaries and the formulation of a new geographical map, which faces intense opposition from European governments, especially Britain.

Most political analysts base Turkey's military operations on three crisis conditions:

1. The Turkish central government is in the throes of a political-economic crisis.
2. The Iraqi central government appears weak and its relations with the West are not friendly.
3. Conditions and developments of the international system that play a major role in fanning Turkey's territorial aspirations toward northern Iraq—in light of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the adverse position of the Iraqi hierarchy—have provided conducive circumstances.

It is certain that in view of its current crises and problems in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, as well as in the countries that have gained independence from the communist system, Turkey's policy is to align itself with the U.S. stances and to a certain extent with Israel. These tactics have generated greater problems for Islamic countries which want Turkey to be aligned with the Islamic societies in order to protect the interests of the Muslims. They do not want a Turkey that lays a path for U.S.-Israeli schemes and provides a license for their implementation.

A powerful Turkey, whether on the economic scene or the political-military scene can be a strong arm alongside the other powerful and able Islamic countries. If it succumbs to the partition plan, or what is known in international circles as formulating a new regional map by the United States and Israel, it would mean the acceptance of a crisis in which the military option—even if it is carried out by using the best and most modern military technology—will be similar to the U.S. war in Kuwait, that is, an entry into a limitless quagmire.

German Parliament Speaker Pays Official Visit

Comments on 'Irreversible' Ties

LD1410215895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the invitation of Deputy Majles Speaker Hasan Rowhani, Hans Klein, the deputy speaker of the German Federal Assembly arrived in Tehran on Saturday [14 October] night. The deputy Majles speaker said that the purpose of Klein's visit to our country was to strengthen parliamentary ties and to expand the political, economic, and cultural relations between the two countries. He added that during the four-day visit by the deputy speaker of the German Federal Assembly to Iran, relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union, international cooperation, the problem of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Central Asia, and Middle East disarmament will be discussed.

Klein, for his part, referred to the importance of Germany in Europe and of Iran in the Middle East, and said that the expansion of ties between the two countries was very important and stressed that the cultural ground work and relations between Iran and Germany had made mutual ties irreversible. [sentence as heard]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Details Issues on Agenda

LD1510105595 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA — Vice-Speaker of the German Parliament Hans Klein arrived here Saturday [14 October] night for a four-day official visit following the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani.

Upon his arrival at Mehrabad airport, he commented on Iran's major role in the Middle East region and Germany's situation in Europe.

He further underlined the need to promote relations between Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Rowhani remarked that Klein's visit to Iran, which has been made in response to an Iranian parliamentary delegation's trip to Germany two years ago, was aimed at strengthening bilateral parliamentary relations. He reiterated that Bonn-Tehran cooperation in various political, economic and cultural areas have been very satisfying.

As Klein's trip to the Islamic Republic is the third that has been exchanged by the two countries' parliaments in the last two years, mutual parliamentary relations have been upgraded, the Iranian official stated.

Rowhani added that besides issues related to the European Union and to international cooperation between the two republics, the critical situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as the disarmament issue in the Middle East region will be among the topics to be discussed by the German parliamentarian and Iranian officials.

Addresses 'Historical Friendship'

LD1510143295 Tehran IRNA in English 1410 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA — Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani here on Sunday [15 October] called for solid economic relations between Tehran and Bonn.

In a meeting with visiting vice-president of German Federal Assembly, Hans Klein, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani said Germany is Iran's biggest trade partner. He said Tehran by rescheduling its debts to Germany has already repaid five billion marks of its outstanding debts to Germany according to a timetable.

Rowhani said the current trade exchange between the two countries is insufficient and should further increase through participation of Germany in Iran's investment projects and training of Iranian manpower.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani expressed pleasure with the steps taken by the German parliament and put emphasis on strengthening of Tehran-Bonn parliamentary relations.

Rowhani, pointing to the problems of the region, urged the West especially Germany to help Iran pave the way for disarmament of weapons of mass destruction.

"The main stumbling block in the way of disarmament in the region is Israel that avoids signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty," the Majles vice-speaker said.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani said the major problem faced by the U.S. in the region is that the people are vigilant, hoping that the U.S. and the West would accept the reality and respect the public opinion in the Middle East.

Klein said in reply that the Islamic Republic of Iran is an important country in terms of economic, geopolitical and historical points of view in the region and underscored the importance of Tehran-Bonn relations.

The German parliamentarian said though there are some differences between Iran and Germany, the historical friendship between the two nations has always persuaded them to patch up differences and promote mutual relations.

He described parliamentary relations between nations as significant and said his visit to Tehran has been made in this regard.

Klein arrived in Tehran on Saturday on a three-day visit at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rowhani.

Holds Talks With Majles Official

LD1510213395 Tehran IRNA in English 2112 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 15, IRNA — Deputy head of the Majles Foreign Policy Commission Mohammad-Javad Larijani in a meeting here today with the Vice-President of the German Federal Assembly Hans Klein, welcomed the initiative taken by the European Union regarding debates on how to deal with the current movements in the Muslim world.

He also called as important Europe's efforts to see the reality of Islamic movements and not to mould its policies on the wrong notions of fundamentalism.

Referring to Iran-Germany relations Larijani stated that cooperation should not be confined to bilateral fields. He said there were many fields where the two countries can enter tripartite cooperation with a third country.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

He also expressed hope that the two countries' parliamentary relations would pave the way for further political, economic and cultural relations.

Klein for his part referred to the "historic relations" of the two countries and said Bonn attaches "great importance" to Tehran's role in the Middle East and Persian Gulf regions.

He called the Iranian impact on regional issues as a "positive point" for his country for expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic.

The German official arrived here on Saturday [14 October] on an invitation from his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rowhani.

Discusses Ties With Rafsanjani

LD1610125095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Hans Klein, deputy speaker of the German parliament today. According to the Central News Unit, during the meeting the president criticized the West's one-sided perspective on international issues and stated: The Western world views international issues from its own perspective and does not allow others to express their own opinions on the basis of their own beliefs, perspectives, and standards.

As an example, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the stance adopted by some Western countries toward the occupation of Palestine by Israel and the displacement of millions of Palestinians from their homeland, adding: The propaganda power of the world's arrogant media has poisoned the climate of discussion and communication in the world in such a way that blatant injustices, such as the acts of aggression committed by the regime occupying Qods [Jerusalem], are presented as just actions; and even the independent countries of the world are not permitted to express their views that run counter to theirs and to condemn aggression and occupation.

He added: We expect independent countries and the free-thinking people of the world to understand the realities of the world and to state them with courage and sincerity, free of the influence of the ideas imposed by big and hegemonistic powers.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Klein conveyed the warm greetings of German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, expressed gratitude for the element of frankness that exists in bilateral talks and said: We are undergoing a process that will allow the viewpoints and opinions of the two countries to come closer together.

The German deputy speaker referred to the efforts that are made to present to the international public a distorted image of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that discussion and consultation can undoubtedly remove many of the misunderstandings that exist between countries. He added that Germany is trying to bring the viewpoints of the West and Islam closer together, within the framework of a friendly and sincere climate and by means of discussion and cooperation.

Mr. Klein also called for an increase in parliamentary ties between Iran and Germany and stressed the need to expand the relations between the two countries in the political, economic, and cultural fields.

Economy Minister Briefs IMF on Nation's Growth

LD1210131195 Tehran IRNA in English 1253 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Morteza Mohammad Khan said in Washington on Wednesday [11 October] that the economic growth during the 1st development plan (1989-93) was an average of 7.3 percent annually.

Mohammad Khan, addressing economy and finance ministers attending the joint annual session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), criticized the discriminatory and selective practice in payment of loans to IMF and WB members which he said is a cause of concern for many members.

He added that the practice while being incompatible with the spirit and the laws governing IMF and WB, will intensify uneven economic development and growth of the member states.

The Iranian minister said that Iran welcomes IMF's recent policy to expand the scope of its activities in monitoring foreign exchange and monetary developments. However, he added, the IMF should treat the developing and the developed countries on equal terms.

Turning to Iranian economy, he said export of non-oil commodities registered a massive growth while the country became self-sufficient in agricultural products, moving rapidly towards a more healthy economic system. Mohammad Khan said that Iran's trade balance last year had a dlrs. 6.4 billion surplus while overall balance showed a surplus of about dlrs. 3.3 billion.

Last year Iran's overall economic growth was three percent and economic growth without considering the oil sector five percent, he added. He added that stabilization of econonmy is among top priorities in the 2nd five-year plan (1995-2000).

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Iranian minister said that Iran favours foreign investment within the framework of rules and regulations and in line with strengthening the private sector. He said that Iran is fully committed to its foreign obligations.

Daily Addresses Price Reduction of Iron Goods

95LA0380A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 13 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] In the last few weeks, implementation of the policy to stabilize the foreign exchange rate has brought reductions in the prices of many goods, including various types of iron instruments and fertilizer, on the markets for these goods. Of course it is expected, with the continuation of current conditions, that the price of iron instruments will decrease further in the days to come.

'Abdol-Salam Jahangiri, a wholesaler of iron instruments on Mokhtari Street in Tehran, discussed the establishment of a balance between supply and demand. He said: In the event of adequate distribution of iron instruments on the market and the prevention of abuses by some dealers, the prices of these goods certainly will not increase.

He added: Two days ago, there was a rumor that the Esfahan Iron Foundry had stopped production of number 18 iron beams, and within one hour the price of a number 18 iron beam increased 10,000 rials [R]. Later, when the rumor was denied, the price went down again.

Haj Mirzaqoli Barani, another iron instrument wholesaler in this district, emphasized that "neither pressure nor government agents cause the prices of goods to go down. Rather, it is the price of the product and supervision of distribution that cause the price of goods to go down. He added: Already about one-fourth of the iron instruments produced in the country are distributed by guild units.

He said: Even now, with the supervision of the Government Penalties Organization, dealers and middlemen do not have the courage to buy and hold masses of iron instruments.

Another seller of construction iron said that the reason for the decrease in price of these goods is partly the implementation of the new police to stabilize the foreign exchange rate and the direct marketing of iron along with building permits.

'Ali Rostami, a wholesaler of iron rods on Mokhtari street, also said the recent government measures to control the prices of goods have been effective. He said: If the price of the dollar is stabilized and if production and supply of iron instruments increase, there will be further decreases in the selling price of these goods in the near future.

Ahmad Zul-Feqari, a wholesaler of angle iron in this district, also discussed the current stagnation in the market for iron instruments due to the start of the housing construction season. He told our correspondent: The decrease in consumer purchases, who formerly bought more than they needed out of fear of price increases, has caused a sharp drop in prices.

He said: Only the price of some drain pipe angle iron has increased by a certain percentage because it has not been imported.

Mahram Ja'farzadeh, a seller of sheet iron at the Mokhtari intersection, also discussed the decrease in price of these goods. He said: The price per kilogram of sheet iron has decreased an average of more than R1,000 compared to the price before the new foreign exchange decision, but at the same time there are no customers.

He said: The prices of various kinds of sheet iron have increased greatly in the last few months with the excessive increases in the price of the dollar, multiplying five-fold in some cases. However, it is now expected that prices will gradually return to their levels.

Wholesale Market Prices of Various Iron Construction Materials (Unit: Rial)

Type of Merchandise	Price Before New Foreign Exchange Price	Current Price
No. 16 iron Beam, each (Esfahan Iron Foundry)	250,000	205,000
No. 16 iron Beam, each (Ahvaz Iron Factory)	250,000	200,000

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Type of Merchandise	Price Before New Foreign Exchange Price	Current Price
No. 18 iron Beam, each (Esfahan Iron Foundry)	330,000	275,000
No. 20 iron Beam, each (Esfahan Iron Foundry)	770,000	540,000
No. 20 iron Beam, each (Foreign)	800,000	600,000
No. 22 iron Beam, each (Foreign)	830,000	620,000
Plain iron rod no. 6.5, kg	1,370	1,180
Rough iron rod no. 8 fabric, kg	1,670	1,500
Plain iron rod no. 8 skein, kg	1,380	1,200
Rough iron rod no. 10, kg	1,550	1,300
Plain iron rod no. 10, kg	1,450	1,200
Rough iron rod no. 12, kg	1,070	990
Plain iron rod no. 12, kg	1,000	1,050
Rough iron rod no. 14, kg	1,070	995
Plain iron rod no. 14, kg	1,000	970
Rough iron rod no. 16, kg	1,050	1,010
Plain iron rod no. 16, kg	1,030	1,030
Rough iron rod no. 18, kg	1,000	970
Plain iron rod no. 18, kg	1,000	950
Rough iron rod no. 20, kg	1,020	980
Plain iron rod no. 20, kg	950	900
Rough iron rod no. 24, kg	1,050	970
Plain iron rod no. 24, kg	1,000	950
Rough iron rod no. 25, kg	1,050	980
Drain pipe angle iron no. 8, kg	1,800	1,130
Drain pipe angle iron no. 10, kg	1,900	1,300
Drain pipe angle iron no. 12, kg	1,500	1,500
Drain pipe angle iron no. 14, foreign, kg	1,200	1,300
Drain pipe angle iron no. 16, foreign, kg	1,300	1,400
Drain pipe angle iron no. 18, foreign, kg	-	2,000
Oil sheet iron, no 1.5, kg	3,300	1,800
Oil sheet iron, no 2, kg	3,300	1,800
Oil sheet iron, no 1.5, kg	3,300	1,800
Oil sheet iron, no 50, kg	3,400	1,300
Oil sheet iron, no 60, kg	3,400	1,900
Oil sheet iron, no 80, kg	3,500	1,900

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Type of Merchandise	Price Before New Foreign Exchange Price	Current Price
Black no. 3 sheet iron, kg	1,800	1,400
Black no. 4 sheet iron, kg	1,600	1,300

Pakistan

Bhutto Comments on Afghanistan, Karachi, Israel

BK1510113295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 15 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said India is assisting the Kabul administration to fuel fighting in Afghanistan. Speaking to senior journalists in Islamabad last night, she said there is a direct air route between the airports in New Delhi and in Bagram in Afghanistan. She expressed the hope that India's attempts would be foiled and peace could be restored in the brotherly country, Afghanistan. The prime minister said Pakistan is interested in establishing peace and stability in Afghanistan and it supports the efforts of United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference to realize this objective. She said Pakistan wants to see representation of all the Afghan groups in the final settlement of the Afghanistan crisis. She said Pakistan is interested in establishing good relations with all Afghan groups. She regretted that the Kabul administration is indignant over this policy. Refuting charges that Pakistan is interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the prime minister said on the contrary, Pakistan has been the target of terrorism at the behest of the Kabul administration.

In response to a question, the prime minister categorically stated that no effort is being made by Pakistan to recognize Israel, as the core issues of Golan Heights and the status of Jerusalem are yet to be resolved.

Regarding Karachi, the prime minister said the government wants a sincere political solution to this problem. She urged the Muhajir Qaumi Movement Altaf Group to abandon terrorism and resume negotiations. She said it is a multidimensional problem and it cannot be resolved overnight. There is a growing feeling among the people of Karachi that the present government is sincere in dealing with this problem.

Replying to a question on the performance of the government over the past two years, the prime minister said the government's policies have created stability in the country, improved the economy, reduced deficit financing, brought down the percentage of country's debts, and activated the process of reforms in the financial structure. Referring to erroneous reports on the commutation of gratuity and pension, she said the government is making efforts to provide more and more facilities to government employees. She said for the first time the government has given the facility to restore the entire amount of the part of the commuted pension to the families of those government employees, who died after their retirement.

She announced the reinstatement of all the dismissed employees of the Associated Press of Pakistan, who appealed to the Director General of the organization. She also announced the deadline for submitting income tax returns has been extended to the 29th of this month.

Further on Bhutto Comments

BK1610025795 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Oct 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] ISLAMABAD — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has acknowledged the arrest of some top army officers. But she has refused to comment on the issue in detail. Arguing that full disclosure at the present stage could jeopardise the course of investigations being conducted.

"We will not leak selective bit of information but will make a full disclosure when the investigations are complete," said the Prime Minister while talking to national newspaper editors here on Saturday [14 October].

During her meeting with the editors, Ms Bhutto was asked to comment on the allegation, made last week by Senator Tariq Chaudhry that some top army officers had been arrested and that neither the Ministry of Defence nor the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) department had confirmed or denied the allegation.

The Prime Minister said that she did not want to make any premature disclosure, and "We should wait for the final outcome of the investigations."

During the briefing to editors, the Prime Minister also discussed other national and international issues, including the situation in Karachi, occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan, the country's economy and the performance of her government in the last two years.

About the situation in Karachi, she said that her government wanted to solve the problem by political means, through negotiations. "We started the talks to remove irritants. Despite the talks, they (MQM's [Muhajir Quami Movement] Altaf Group) have continued with several strike calls. They should give up the militant way.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We have given several concessions, including the opening of 90 Aziza bad, despite the fact it was a hotbed of terrorists."

"If they (MQM's Altaf Group) say that their militant wing is not under their control then what is the use in talking to them," Ms Bhutto said, adding: "The Nawaz Sharif government had made them a part of the federal and the local governments. Despite that, bank robberies did not stop. They targeted even army officers. Yet, the MQM Altaf Group was trying to pose publicly as if it was a victim."

Denying a speculation that N D Khan Federal Law Minister, was going to London to talk to Altaf Hussain, the prime minister clarified that there were many criminal cases against Altaf Hussain. He was convicted in one of these. Therefore, there was no point in talking to him. "Nevertheless, people reform and their roles change. Wali Khan was once being tried for treason.

Now he is a leading politician, and his wife, a member of the provincial assembly."

On the Kashmir issue, the Prime Minister was asked by the editors as to whether any PLO-type solution to the Kashmir problem, including the exercise of the Third Option, was being suggested by certain quarters.

"Our stand on the Kashmir issue is very clear. The Third Option or independent Kashmir was a ploy to divide the Kashmiri Muslims and is not acceptable to Pakistan. We are for a plebiscite in Kashmir, which even India had agreed to."

Regarding self-rule for the Kashmiri people, she said: "No PLO- style formula is under consideration. However, Pakistan will welcome bilateral talks on Kashmir with India. And, in the absence of that, third party mediation or even proximity talks." [passage omitted]

The Prime Minister said the opposition should respect the five- year mandate of the government which came into power after elections held by a neutral government, and, then it should come and talk with the government.

The other area or regret, according to her, was "corruption at the middle and lower levels, which is eating up the system. To a question about corruption at higher levels. Ms Bhutto was of the opinion that none of her minister was allowed to take loans and go into business. "There should be a clear demarcation between business and politics. If you want to do business you should not enter politics and vice versa."

The Prime Minister said that she did not believe in witch hunts, kangaroo courts and trials by media. However, she said that she had made it clear to her cabinet colleagues that if she found any concrete proof of corruption against them, she would take strict action.

To a question about the country's high inflation rate, the Prime Minister said, "We are much concerned about rising prices but there was a downward trend in the last four weeks.

She held external factors primarily responsible for inflation. For instance, increase in the prices of import items palm oil. Other factors were financial and fiscal ones. "The government of Nawaz Sharif borrowed more money than all the governments since the inception of Pakistan," she said. [passage omitted]

Troops Move to Afghan Border To Halt Refugee Flow

BK1510102495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Oct 95 p 14

[Report from Pakistan Press International]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Peshawar (PPI) — Pakistan has deployed more troops along its borders with Afghanistan to stop entry of fresh Afghan people uprooted by latest bout of fighting in Kabul and wanted to take refuge on this side of the Durand line.

Likewise, the authorities have further beefed up security on the borders with strict vigilance at major entry point, Torkham, connecting the two countries. According to reports hundred of war affectees including women and children were waiting at Torkham border with hopes of entering Pakistan territory but only those are allowed having valid travel documents such as passport and visa. The road beyond Torkham border point which leads to Kabul is teemed with Afghan families with larries, mini buses, trucks and vehicles parked on both sides of the highway waiting for entry into this side of the border.

The vigilance at other points of the borders too was intensified with fresh development of troops.

Meanwhile, the main Afghan eastern city, Jalalabad, the last city on way to Pakistan has been over crowded with people and families pouring in for safety after fleeing war in Kabul.

The tentages and refugees camps around the city were packed with fresh wave of war affectees reaching the comparatively peaceful city to take refuge. The markets, shops, business places and even road sides were having a variety of Pakistani consumer goods which finds its way into Jalalabad after being smuggled from Pakistan and sold at highly exorbitant prices.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Aircraft Checked To Stop Arms' Flow to Afghanistan

BK1210134395 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Oct 95 p 1, 7

[Report by Sikandar Lodhi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lahore: Pakistan has begun following the international rules of civil aviation in order to stop the supply of arms to Afghanistan from India. According to the instructions from the authorities in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Civil Aviation Authority has advised that all airplanes from Central Asian Republics must land at Karachi or Lahore airports for technical reasons. Airplanes that fly over Pakistan to India, Afghanistan or the Central Asian Republics are provided fuel when they land at these two airports and they have to pay landing charges, which usually range from $600 to $800. Officials from the Civil Aviation Authority said the other day that, according to Clause 5 of the Chicago Convention, any country can ask airplanes passing through its airspace to land for technical reasons. Then these planes are permitted to fly to their next destination. According to the sources more than 11 Central Asian planes flying from India to Afghanistan have been asked to land, for technical reasons, in Karachi or Lahore over the past 10 to 15 days. These planes are carefully checked once they have landed. However, no trouble is given to the passengers or the crew of these planes. According to these sources, the purpose of this Pakistan Governmnet policy is to ensure the security of these planes and also to take notice of the incidents in which arms are supplied to Afghanistan from India on these airplanes.

Bhutto Bars al-Faran 'Kidnappers' From Entering

BK1510084795 Hong Kong AFP in English 1711 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 14 (AFP) — The Al-Faran group of kidnappers holding four Western hostages in Indian-administered Kashmir will never be allowed to enter Pakistani territory, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Saturday [14 October].

Addressing newspaper editors, Bhutto said Pakistan and all Kashmiri parties had condemned the "savage" act of kidnapping.

The abductors have caused "immense" damage to the ongoing Kashmiri "struggle for self-determination," she said, in a reference to the more than five-year-old Moslem separatist campaign.

Bhutto said India was using the incident for propaganda against Pakistan and to brand its opponents in Kashmir as fundamentalists and terrorists.

The previously unknown Al-Faran group kidnapped five tourists — two Britons, one American, one German and a Norwegian — in July. The Norwegian, Hans-Christian Ostro, was later killed.

The group has threatened to kill the remaining hostages if the Indian authorities do not meet its demand for release of 15 Moslem militants.

More than 12,000 people have been killed by official count since 1989 in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants. Islamabad denies the charge but extends diplomatic support to the unrest, terming it a struggle for self-determination.

Indian Troops Reportedly Kill 3 in Kashmir

BK1410142095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1345 GMT 14 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Three persons, including a woman and two men, are reported killed, while nine others were injured due to indiscriminate firing by Indian troops from across the [Kashmir] Line of Control. According to reports, a woman was killed at Dudhnial village, while one person was killed at Sharkot and another at Mandal village. Nine persons, including two women, were wounded at Chirikot, Satwal, Jundrot, Nadial and Mandal. All these cease- fire violations have been lodged with the UN Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.